

# The Baptist Record

Thursday, April 2, 1992

Published Since 1877

## 'Please do not forget us' leader in Yugoslavia begs

ZAGREB, REPUBLIC OF CROATIA (EBPS) — Amidst encouraging signs that the United Nations may be able at long last to send peace-keeping forces into areas which once belonged to a united Yugoslavia, Baptist leaders there are assessing the damage to the work of Baptist churches. The picture is not good.

Zelimir Srncic, a Baptist pastor who serves as general secretary of the Baptist Union headquarters in Novi Sad, described the devastation which the civil war has inflicted on some cities and towns where Baptist churches once existed.

Srncic and Stevo Dereta, a pastor in Rieka, both said that Serbian Baptist churches as well as churches in Croatia are involved in many humanitarian projects in the aftermath of the war. The greatest needs are for food, money, and other resources.

Srncic said the Baptist church buildings of Vinkovci, Osijek, Pakrac, Karlovac, Petrinia, and Moscenica have been damaged and some completely destroyed. The congregations in many of these cities and towns are dispersed. Some members are among the refugees living in Serbia, while others have emigrated to Germany or elsewhere in Europe. It is likely that Baptist buildings in the Vrnjacka Banja region were also destroyed, but communication to many areas is limited or non-existent.

Elsewhere the situation is better. The church building of Vukovar miraculously escaped destruction even though all other buildings on the street were destroyed. The church building in Sirac is also thought to be undamaged.

However, the Baptist Union has no information of church services being held in most of these places, or even if the congregation which once existed continues to exist as a church.

The Baptist churches in Serbia are very involved with refugee relief work. "There are probably 200,000 refugees at least," stated Srncic. He spoke of the terrible lack of food and medicines in some areas of Croatia, and of the serious conditions under which war refugees are living.



## Ten Commandments

Galilea Baptist Church in Managua, Nicaragua, prepared a float depicting Moses and the Ten Commandments for the parade held Feb. 16 in Managua honoring the 75th anniversary of the founding of the first Baptist church in Nicaragua. The ninth and tenth commandments, condensed to fit the signs,

warn not to bear false testimony and not to covet. Young people in the church prepared dozens of small bags of drinking water they handed out to those in the parade as it came by the church. (FMB photo by Charles Ledford)

## Fellowship may compete with Annie, Lottie offerings

ATLANTA (BP) — Annual Southern Baptist Convention Easter and Christmas offerings for home and foreign missions may get competition from the Baptist Cooperative Fellowship.

The Fellowship's coordinating council, meeting in Atlanta March 12-14, voted to offer assistance to churches seeking options to the annual Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions.

Jimmy Allen, a member of the Fellowship's global missions ministry group, said the special offerings are a response to churches who aren't going to give to SBC offerings anyway, not an intentional effort to establish a competitive offering.

"We don't want to be in competition with Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong," said Allen, a former president of the Southern Baptist Convention. "But we have a lot of our church-

es asking us for alternative ways to fund missions."

Asked if SBC missionaries back the Fellowship, Moderator John Hewett said, "We appear to have broad support among the missionaries in Europe."

Hewett and other moderates claim the Foreign Mission Board wants to impose its own theological agenda on European Baptists rather than work in partnership with them. FMB trustees have publicly denied the charge.

Hewett said the number of churches giving money to the Fellowship has doubled in the past year.

The group expects to receive \$6.7 million from churches this year, about 50% more than the \$4.5 million received in 1991.

About \$5.1 million of that money, however, is earmarked for Southern Baptist Convention agencies.

Also discussed was the Fellowship's

relationship to the Women's Missionary Union, an independent Southern Baptist auxiliary which some SBC officials have suggested should become an SBC agency.

"That's a smoke screen," said Hewett, who said the SBC wants to control the WMU.

**"We appear to have broad support among the missionaries in Europe." — Hewett**

Allen said the Fellowship currently has a "friendly and gracious relationship" with the WMU.

"It's possible that they will be able

to give us assistance in promoting mission endeavors," Allen said.

Hewett also said the Fellowship remains in contact with Foreign Mission Board President Keith Parks, who met March 19-20 with FMB trustees concerning his future at that agency.

"I think it's clear that this group would welcome any relationship he would want to have," he said.

The council also affirmed five principles European Baptists claim must be upheld in partnership work.

The principles, outlined in a statement from leaders of 22 European Baptist unions, include mutual respect for all parties involved, reciprocal sharing of resources, moral integrity of maintaining agreements, spiritual freedom, and genuine consultation between partners.

Hewett said such principles were ignored by the Foreign Mission Board

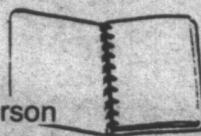
in its work with European Baptists. Cecil Sherman, newly elected coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, added the FMB used its money "as a club" to force European Baptists into compliance with board regulations.

David Rogers, vice president of the Baptist Theological Seminary at Ruschlikon, and director of its fund raising office in Nashville, agreed. "European Baptists have been under a lot of rules and barriers for several years. They do not intend to have any more walls. They genuinely desire equal partnership."

The coordinating council will also recommend to the general assembly that a \$165,000 safety net fund be expanded to include helping missionaries who leave Southern Baptist Convention work. The money was previously earmarked for only Southern Baptist denominational workers or seminary professors.

## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson



## The demolition derby continues

Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board, has announced his retirement by October 1992. For 38 years he has been connected with the foreign mission enterprise and is one of our best missiologists. I've known him for over 20 years, played tennis with him, and sat through dozens of committee meetings. He is honest, hard-working, compassionate, and a friend. I grieve, along with thousands of others, that he will not continue until 1995 and seek to fulfill his vision of world outreach.

The question now is why. Parks made the decision to retire declaring the difficulties in working with the trustees in the direction of the agency and his freedom to lead it. More and more the trustees were encroaching in administrative decisions. A climate of distrust, suspicion, and interference with management style had created such an atmosphere that he could not continue.

Battered and bent, the demolition derby of South-

ern Baptists continues. First there was the appointive process of the Convention, then the Baptist-Press, Baptist Joint Committee, followed by Southeastern Seminary, the Sunday School Board, and now the Foreign Mission Board. Think not that it will stop here. The wheels keep rolling.

The conservative resurgence has become a victim of success having set in motion more than it can control. The need of a peacemaker, a statesman, is desperate. Is there a man for the hour?

Abraham Lincoln told the story of a boy who murdered both his parents and then, before the court, pled for mercy on the grounds he was an orphan. We face the possibility of seeing agencies and institutions weakened or abolished and then hearing the plea for understanding, cooperation, and financial help. The derby seldom ceases until all the vehicles are rendered useless. Let's cease the destruction while the vehicles are still operative.

## The correct label

Recently, Mark Coppenger, public relations manager for the SBC, declared journalists were taking sides by using incorrect labels for one group or another.

The four major terms used are liberal, moderate, conservative, and fundamentalist. Liberal and fundamentalist were perceived as bashing someone and should not be used of our Southern Baptist brethren, unless they use it in describing themselves, said Coppenger.

Coppenger sees moderate and conservative as being pleasant and non-inflammatory. Moderates are "smooth and thoughtful" and conservatives "guard the precious treasures of tradition."

All this sounds wonderful. However, what do we call someone who is biblically conservative but does not favor the takeover of Convention offices nor the exclusion of the "smooth and thoughtful" group? Neither does he favor the "convention within the Convention," nor the duplication of so

many of our agencies and services.

"Fundamentalism" is as much a method of operation as it is a belief. "Moderate" can mean you don't believe the Bible as much as I do — which is the primary way it's been used for the last decade. Southern Baptists do believe the Bible and do not take kindly to any appellation that describes them otherwise.

His idea of using a string of "ultras" has some merit. Instead of writing it out — ultra, ultra, ultra — we could use ultra<sup>3</sup> (to the third power) conservative or ultra<sup>10</sup> (to the tenth power) conservative. We could then argue about numbers and degrees rather than labels.

I keep saying "Amen" to much that Coppenger said. He makes an appeal for Christian charity, declaring the last thing the SBC needs now is hate. Wholehearted agreement on this! Now that 45% of the Convention is excluded from policy and personnel deci-

sions, we need to exercise charity. Tell it to Al Shackleford and Dan Martin, or explain it to Lloyd Elder or Keith Parks.

Like Coppenger said, it would be nice if labels were not necessary, but we do have to talk about the struggle, and it's hard to do without using nouns and adjectives. Few things will wipe out the labels quicker than prayer and cooperation. Broaden the base by accepting some nominations from the 45%. Surely one of the men defeated for SBC president in the past 12 years would be qualified to serve.

I join Coppenger in deploring the labels, but somehow we need to make it plain that a vast host of Southern Baptists, who are Bible-believing conservatives, favor neither the "conservative" nor "moderate" political stance. The Paul party and the Apollos party (1 Cor. 3:4) were described as being carnal, even though one planted, another watered. Things have changed very little if we let labels divide us again.

## Law firm will assist BJC in recovering funds

WASHINGTON — A Washington-based law firm has been retained by the Baptist Joint Committee to assist the agency in retrieving funds on deposit at the Southern Baptist Foundation.

The foundation, acting on instructions of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, recently sent the BJC a check for \$81,036, the amount the

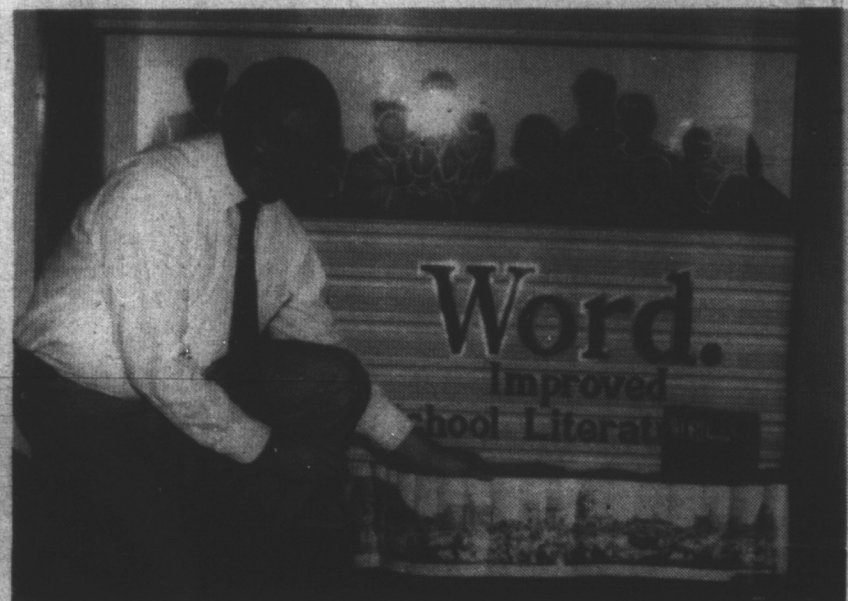
\$300,000 principal in the BJC account had appreciated.

The foundation has not honored the BJC request to release the \$300,000 corpus, placed at the foundation after being allocated for Baptist Joint Committee capital needs by the SBC in 1967-68. The BJC requested all funds in its account to purchase a Capitol Hill office building it placed under

contract Sept. 4.

The SBC Executive Committee, however, voted in February to ask the convention for permission to reallocate the funds.

BJC Executive Director James M. Dunn said the law firm was retained "to give the Baptist Joint Committee the level of expertise that we know is required in a matter so important and sensitive."



Keith Wilkinson, director of Sunday School Department, MBCB, is shown above with a photo taken in 1913 at the Sunday School Convention on the Gulf Coast. The photo will soon be given to the archives at Mississippi College.

## Sun, sand, and Sunday School

Dean Register, pastor of First Church, Gulfport, sent me a picture of the 1913 Baptist Sunday School Convention held in Gulfport, April 8-10. It is a long picture, 42"x8", scrolled up, yellow, wrinkled, spindled and mutilated and looking terribly official. Old City Hall can be recognized, as can possibly the Baptist and Methodist churches. Apparently the group stood along 25th Avenue, Gulfport's main north-south corridor, in front of the home of T. P. Gary. Gary was also Sunday School superintendent.

The men were mostly dressed in dark suits and the women and children in white. Hats abounded. Bonnets were on the small children. Bow ties and sailor suits were in. So much for the fashion report.

I went to the archives at Mississippi College and with the help of Alice Cox found the 1913 Baptist Records. Suddenly these were more than just ancient citizens; it made the old picture come alive. Scads of children were seated on the grass, many perhaps seeing a camera for the first time. Fact is, I doubt I've ever seen one like that. Matthew Brady would have been proud. A 13-year-old neatly dressed girl there would be 92 years old today.

W. E. Holcomb was the assistant Sunday School secretary for Mississippi. Arthur Flake of Winona represented Nashville and the BYPU. J. M. Frost may be in the picture. He was president of the Sunday School Board. One person looks very much like President Teddy Roosevelt of Rough Rider fame. He did come to Mississippi to hunt bear, but I'm doubtful he attended the Convention.

Editor P. I. Lipsey had a number of challenging things in the paper.

Billy Sunday was preaching in a Columbus, Ohio crusade. Lee Scarborough was the preacher at the Blue Mountain Encampment in north Mississippi. J. G. Chastain wrote of "25 years a missionary in Mexico." The Record carried the picture of him and his saddled mule. Hendon Harris wrote of a rebellion in South China. Capt. Robert F. Scott had reached the South Pole but perished on the way back.

We didn't have the Cooperative Program then, but Mississippi had sent \$16,665 to foreign missions and \$147,977 to the Home Mission Board by April. The Convention also requested the next legislature to establish a reformatory school for boys to separate them from hardened criminals.

As usual, the Record carried some interesting advertisements. One that caught my eye was "Dixie Pain and Fever Powder. All pains vanish like magic." I wanted to order a couple of cases, but the staff didn't think too much of the idea. The "Best hot weather tonic" was Groves Tasteless Chill Tonic, "guaranteed to fortify you to withstand the depressing effects of the hot summer." At 50 cents a bottle, I loved the price, too. You could get Muskeetopunk to kill mosquitoes and all bad odors and Dr. Porter's oil would cure Granulated Eyelids.

Other news had E. Y. Mullins praising Southern Seminary and R. A. Venable, pastor at Causeyville, would become new instructor at Clarke Memorial College, according to M. O. Patterson. Keith Wilkinson is presently enjoying the picture for a few days, and later it will be in the archives at Mississippi College, where the public will be able to view it, granulated eyelids permitting.

—GH

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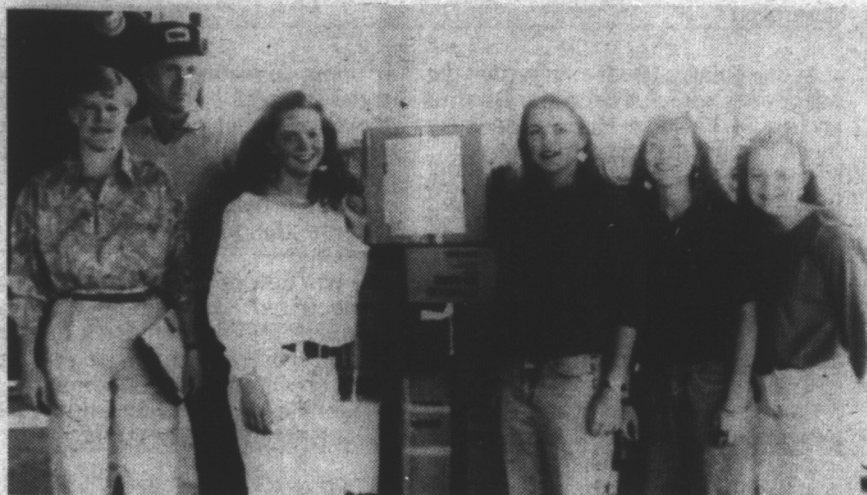
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# Project completed: Beta Club boxes are headed for Romania

By Shannon T. Simpson



Janet McEwen, far left, manager of a trucking company in Philadelphia, and employee Charles Blair stand with members of the Philadelphia High School's Beta Club. The club members arrived early on the morning of March 19 to finish packaging goods for shipment to Romania via Beverly Hills, Calif. The local trucking company donated the transport from Philadelphia to Beverly Hills. Club members shown are, from left, Hope Wood, Temple Waddell, Carolyn Yates, and Erica Duett.

On the morning of March 19, the Baptist Record received word of a project completed. Wanda Waddell of Philadelphia reported the high school's Beta Club had just finished loading 24 boxes of collected goods onto a truck headed for Beverly Hills, Calif.

For several months, the Baptist Record has followed the progress of the Beta Club's drive for contributions to the Casa de Copii orphanage in Lugoj, Romania.

As a result of an article Waddell read in the Record, the orphanage was adopted by the club as its service project. Collecting food, clothing, and bedding from the local community and Baptist Record readers around the state, the club hit obstacles in its efforts to ship the goods.

With the help of Bo Mask, aide to Congressman Sonny Montgomery in Washington, D.C., the club was put in

contact with the Romanian Orphanage Fund in Beverly Hills, Calif., which was about to make a large shipment to Romania. Waddell was told the fund would be willing to "piggy-back" the club's shipment with theirs, provided the club could get the goods to Beverly Hills.

Waddell enlisted the aid of a local trucking company which donated the transportation of the boxes from Philadelphia to Beverly Hills.

The obstacle remained of getting the boxes out of the Romanian port of Constanta, and on to Lugoj. Waddell decided she would simply have to raise and send the money to Romanian doctor, Lucy Platon.

Platon is sister to Philadelphia resident Cornel Petrassevich, through whom the Baptist Record first knew the orphanage's needs. Waddell hoped the cash could be used to hire transportation for the boxes from the

port to Lugoj.

Then, on March 18, the day before the boxes were to be loaded for trucking, a check for \$300 arrived — a gift from a Baptist Record reader in Bellefontaine. Another \$200 check followed. Waddell said the extra money will go towards the purchase of fresh fruit for the children. It was to be wired to the Platons in Romania, along with news of the arrival of the shipment in about six weeks.

Waddell said, for now, their project is complete, but the club may adopt the orphanage as its service project next school year.

"You should have seen those (Philadelphia High School) kids loading the boxes on that truck," she said. "It was the most wonderful thing. People always talk negatively about the youth of today, but these students are wonderful Christian young people."

## MC faculty members try to explain Clarke closing

By Guy Henderson

In an emotional setting Mississippi College faculty members sought to explain the closing of Clarke College to faculty and students on March 25. Students were told in a letter last summer that Clarke's accreditation had been pulled by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) citing finances and long range planning as the reasons. Faced with loss of students, dwindling financial resources, and this loss of accreditation, the trustees voted to close the school at the May graduation time.

Charles Martin, academic dean, Sheldon Hand, legal advisor, and Tom Prather, financial aid advisor, all from Miss. College, met with students Wednesday to explain the action. The history of Clarke, the academic

issues, and the question of financial aid were covered. The students were then permitted to ask questions.

Most of the questions concerned the academic work and Clarke property. "All students in good academic standing at Clarke are in good standing at Miss. College," according to Martin. No statement was made concerning Clarke property since this would have to come from the trustees. The students were encouraged to continue their education at Miss. College or any other institution.

W. E. Green, past president of Clarke, spoke to the students after the meeting saying that Miss. College is not to blame. "Prayer has saved the school before and prayer will save it again."

## Young agrees to be nominated in June as president of the SBC

HOUSTON (BP) — Ed Young, pastor of Second Church of Houston, has agreed to be nominated as president of the Southern Baptist Convention in Indianapolis June 9-11.

Young's nomination brings to three the number of announced candidates for the SBC presidency. Jess Moody, pastor of Shepherd of the Hills Church in Van Nuys, Calif., announced last September that a group of non-aligned pastors and others had asked permission to nominate him. Nelson Price, pastor of Roswell Street Church in Marietta, Ga., and, like Young, identified with the conservative movement, announced Feb. 21 he would be a candidate.

Interestingly, conservatives have nominated only one candidate each year since the start of the "conservative resurgence" in 1979.

Asked about being on the ballot with another conservative, Young said he has the "deepest affection and respect for Nelson Price," who is the current SBC first vice president.

As to the first, Young said there has never been a greater opportunity for both evangelism and missions. "We need to set a goal to win a half-million people in 1995 and one million in the year 2000 for Jesus Christ," he said.

"I have a strong desire to find a

(See **YOUNG** on page 8)

## N.C. leaders draft recommendation

ASHBORO, N.C. (BP) — The leadership of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina has drafted a recommendation which would refuse gifts from churches publicly approving homosexuality and disqualify them as "cooperating churches."

The recommendation, which goes to the convention's general board at its

May 19 meeting in Ashboro, was drafted by E. Glen Holt, convention president; Dorothy Allred, first vice president; Edwin Vick, second vice president; Lamar J. Brooks, General Board president; Kathryn H. Hamrick, board vice president; and Roy J. Smith, convention executive director-treasurer.

(See **NORTH CAROLINA** on page 8)

The Second Front Page

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, April 2, 1992

Published Since 1877

## Parks tells FMB staff reasons for retirement

By Robert O'Brien

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — R. Keith Parks told staff of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board his decision to retire as president in October was based on spiritual leadership, not political pressure.

"For a long time there has been the impression that if you can get together and pray together and have a good spiritual experience, that means you will all come out with the same conclusion," said Parks, a 38-year veteran of foreign missions and FMB president since 1980. "Although many of us had a very honest spiritual experience, that didn't change some of our basic ideas... convictions... and differences."

Some trustees "insist there are no basic differences (between us)," Parks said. But he noted at least five trustees told him at the end of the retreat he had done the "only honorable thing" by stepping down if he couldn't agree with them philosophically.

But he cited basic differences with trustees and said questions asked by trustees during the retreat indicated those differences would remain. He outlined three reasons discussed at the retreat that "reinforced my sense of the Lord's leadership" that October is the time to retire:

- 1) no clear trustee support for his request to remain until 1995.
- 2) differences with the trustees over the president's role.
- 3) basic philosophical differences regarding missions.

Parks gave similar reasons in a letter he and his wife, Helen Jean, have

sent to all Southern Baptist foreign missionaries.

Elaborating on the second and third reasons, Parks said part of the disagreement over the president's role was his refusal to endorse the "conservative resurgence" or "new

order" in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Parks reaffirmed his belief in the Bible and his conservative theology. But he told trustees he can't endorse the conservative movement "in good conscience... because my basic concept of the Bible is what I think Baptists have always stood for" — to cooperate in a non-creedal manner.

The denomination is moving toward a creedal approach of imposing theological control, he said, and FMB trustees expect him to exert more theological control over staff, missionaries and overseas Baptists than he feels comfortable in exerting.

Parks said he disagrees with an approach in which theology takes first place in missions decisions over sound missiological principles. Sound missiology includes sound theology, he stressed, but theology is not the totality of missiology and other factors must be considered.

Parks also noted concern about a trend toward considering individuals qualified for denominational and missionary service only if their theology and politics are "right."

"There are many people whose theology would be very conservative, even more conservative than some who are in control, but they aren't accepted because they haven't endorsed the political activity within the denomination," he said.

Beyond philosophical and theological differences, Parks reiterated the retreat produced no clear-cut sense of trustee support for him to remain until 1995. Last August

(See **PARKS** on page 8)



**TRIBUTE TO A LEADER** — Numerous Foreign Mission Board staff members came forward to embrace board president Keith Parks after he explained his decision to retire in October. Board workers also held candles aloft in support of Parks at the beginning of the March 23 meeting. Parks announced his retirement decision March 20 at the end of a two-day retreat with board trustees. (BP photo by Charles Ledford)

Thursday, April 2, 1992



## Miss Mississippi College

The Miss Mississippi College Pageant, the college's preliminary to the Miss Mississippi Pageant, recently chose Laura Newell as the 1992 Miss MC. She will represent the college in the state pageant scheduled in Vicksburg later this year. Second runner-up was Carrie Kuvrkendall, a junior from Laurel. First runner-up was Cheryl Simmons, a junior from West Point. Newell is the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Luther C. Newell Jr. of Florence. (MC photo)

## Pleasant Ridge will celebrate 150th year

Pleasant Ridge Church, Tippah County, will celebrate its 150th anniversary the week of April 5-12. "The Ridge" was organized in 1842.

David Blackwell, present pastor, said, "In the early days, a rigid schedule of discipline of the members was practiced. Her doors were closed for a short time while Gen. Nathan B. Forrest fought battles literally within sight of the church."

The present building is the third one since the founding. One fell to the ground in 1867. Another was blown away by a tornado in 1920. The present one has been remodeled, redecorated, and added to several times.

This is the church where J. B. Gambrell, first editor of the Baptist Record, was baptized when he was age 15.

The schedule of speakers during the celebration April 5-12 is as follows:

April 5, Jimmy Porter at 11 a.m.; Alvie Isaac at 5 p.m.; Larry Hill at 6 p.m.; Shawn Davis directing the music; April 6, Martin Williams preaching at 7 p.m. with Joyce Peters as music director; April 7, at 7 p.m., with Roy Marshall preaching and Sara Chunn Morton leading the singing; April 8 at 7 p.m., Rex Yancey preaching; April 9 at 7 p.m. with Dwight Faulkenberry preaching and Charlie Cooper directing the music; April 10 at 7 p.m. with Jim Futral preaching; April 11, no activities planned; April 12, Kermit McGregor preaching at 11 a.m.; Duail Corbitt preaching at 5 p.m. and Johnny Parks preaching at 6 p.m.; David Hatfield directing music.

# Parks decision reached "early in retreat"

By Lacy Thompson

BEDFORD, Texas (ABP) — Keith Parks reached his decision to retire from the presidency of the Foreign Mission Board early in his two-day retreat with FMB trustees, but only after failing at least twice to change Parks' mind did the trustees accept the decision.

That's the account of the March 19-20 meeting given by participating trustees and observers. The retreat, held behind closed doors in a hotel near the Dallas-Fort Worth Airport, was called to discuss Parks' tenure as president. It resulted in Parks' announcement he will retire in October, three years earlier than planned.

Although the retreat had a deeply spiritual tone, according to participants, it also included frank exchanges between trustees and administrators on fundamental questions, including the philosophy, theological stance, and future direction of the mission board.

The Baptist Message of Louisiana compiled the following report of the closed-door retreat based on firsthand sources:

Following the spiritual emphasis, the 78 trustees who attended suggested 25-plus questions they wanted answered by Parks.

During that time, Parks said his conviction about leaving was strengthened. After awhile, he asked for a recess, at which time he told the 12 staff members attending the retreat of his plans to announce his retirement.

Meanwhile, trustees met to choose 10 questions they wanted answered from the brainstorming list.

When the groups moved back together, trustee chairman Bill Hancock of Louisville, Ky., noted that Parks may have been discouraged by the listing of questions. Trustees then spent about an hour affirming Parks and his leadership before proposing to move on to address staff questions.

At that point, as the time to adjourn the evening session approached, Parks intervened and sought to announce his intention to retire. As his intent became clear, one trustee moved to adjourn the meeting so participants would have time to pray about the situation. Sources said the ensuing reaction was adamant encouragement for Parks, even to the point of begging him to reconsider.

Nevertheless, the motion to adjourn eventually was withdrawn. Instead a 45-minute recess was taken, during which numerous trustees sought out Parks to urge him not to announce his retirement.

When the retreat reconvened a little before 11 p.m., Parks was asked his intent. He told trustees he had planned to announce his retirement and have the board set the date.

At that point, one trustee suggested a retirement date of 1995, giving Parks the full amount of time he requested last year in order to put key elements of his global missions strategy in place.

However, other trustees objected, with one noting they could not affirm Parks until he answered the 10 questions.

Parks then agreed to answer the questions, which took until 1 a.m.

The questions covered both broad mission principles and more specific items of contention between trustees and Parks. Although both Parks and trustees later said they reached general agreement on all major issues, Parks said he was not convinced trustees were willing to give him

the freedom he needed to lead the agency effectively.

Trustees asked:

— Why did Parks provide for no alternative view to be presented during the press conference in January at which board administrators Isam Ballenger and Keith Parker announced their early retirements?

Parks has suffered heavy criticism for allowing Ballenger and Parker to criticize trustees during the news conference at FMB headquarters.

During the retreat, Parks said it never occurred to him to counter the opinions presented by the two administrators. Trustee Bill Blanchard of Tennessee urged Parks to set the record straight and not to allow the same thing to happen again.

— Are trustees and staff abiding by the organizational guidelines in the FMB trustee manual?

Parks said he felt trustees lose their objectivity on some issues and overstep their authority by trying to be administrators in some instances.

— Does Parks still agree with his earlier statement that channeling money through avenues other than the Cooperative Program would set the board back?

Parks said he still agrees with that statement but also added that if individuals give through some other means, the board should not refuse the money.

Parks also was asked if he would support the trustees if they take a stand regarding the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, a group of Southern Baptist moderate-conservatives who have set up an alternative funding plan for individuals and churches. Parks said he supports board actions.

— Would Parks agree to discuss decisions with trustee committees before discussing them with reporters or in a public arena?

Parks responded that he would try to do that in the future.

— How do Parks and the trustees go on from this point if there are philosophical differences between them?

Parks responded that he was attempting to address that concern in announcing his retirement. He also noted individual trustees sometimes overstep their authority and seek to tell him what to do. Parks suggested that the president and trustees need to clarify their relationship.

At one point in the ensuing discussion, Paul Martin of Texas acknowledged that if individual board members are speaking for themselves in a way that oversteps authority, they should be ignored.

— Is the board going to continue its policy of sending missionaries only upon request of Baptists in a given region, especially since no requests are coming out of Europe at this time?

Parks said the policy of responding to requests from overseas Baptists is a valid process, pointing out that part of the work of the board is to help generate requests for missionaries. He also noted the board is using its Cooperative Services International arm to work in areas where there are no local Baptists to make requests.

— Is it necessary for the FMB to be involved with unions and federations not in theological agreement with Southern Baptists?

Parks noted the board cannot work in some areas without local involvement. He said he would not rule out sending missionaries who can influence and correct Baptists who have drifted away from their original foundations.

At one point, a trustee suggested the board does not need to cooperate with groups in Western Europe because those groups are going nowhere.

However, Parks said some Baptists in that region have increased evangelistic efforts as a result of board involvement.

— Does the indigenous principle, whereby the board seeks to work within the culture of an area, mean anything is permissible with no restraints?

Parks said his understanding of the indigenous principle is that board workers seek to present the pure gospel with as few cultural trappings as possible. Then, once persons have come to faith in Christ, workers seek to teach the converts how to practice the gospel within their own cultural context.

A trustee then asked if Parks saw the board moving away from that principle. The president replied that some trustees do want Baptists in other countries to act just like Baptists in this country.

The next morning, Parks reaffirmed his decision to leave, saying once more that he felt led of God to announce his retirement as board president.

He set the date as no later than October 1992.

Sources indicate the second announcement was met with additional protests from trustees. However, Leon Hyatt of Louisiana noted that Parks had said twice he felt led of God to retire and that board members had no choice but to honor that decision.

Trustees then agreed to answer six questions from the 12 FMB staff members present.

— Will the board operate by the same philosophy in the future as it does now? Participants noted that concern was addressed in a trustee statement.

— What can be done about staff members having to spend so much energy answering questions of new trustees?

Trustees noted they must take responsibility in that area. One person said the key is for each committee and group to do its job and trust the other groups to do their jobs as well.

— Will staff members be free to interact with those who do not agree with the Baptist way of doing things?

Paige Patterson of Texas responded that staff members can work with others on many projects, but the board must reserve the right not to work with groups that are against board efforts or constantly criticizing such efforts. For instance, staff members can cooperate with such groups to evangelize others but not to start a seminary, Patterson suggested.

FMB Regional Vice President Bill Wakefield noted Patterson's answer seemed to be yes and no, adding it would help to know when one or the other answer applies. Patterson replied he was not seeking to identify all cases in point but to establish a principle and apply it wisely.

— What are some ways to foster better dialogue between trustees and the board's global-strategy group? Trustees agreed with the need for better communication between the two groups on a regular basis.

— What can be done by the board to reassure missionaries during this time? FMB Vice President Winston Crawley said some missionaries are wondering if the trustees trust the overseas workers and if the board is drifting away from its traditional way

of doing missions. A staff member urged trustees to bring problems or questions about missionaries to the staff so they can be resolved in a way that affirms overseas workers.

Trustees noted they have sought to address the problem in letters to missionaries.

— Will new requirements be added to doctrinal statements for staff members and missionaries to sign? Several trustees emphasized no new requirements are forthcoming.

Thompson is associate editor, Louisiana BAPTIST MESSAGE.

## Allen to head MC Department of Religion

The Mississippi College Board of Trustees has approved the appointment of Wm. Loyd Allen of Louisville, Ky., as professor and head of the Department of Religion and Philosophy at the College effective Aug. 1.

Allen, currently associate professor of church history at Southern Seminary, will succeed John McCall, who also went to Mississippi College from SBTS.

McCall will assume the role of director of church relations and will continue as professor of Bible. A former president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, McCall was named Distinguished Professor of the Year in 1991 and has been a member of the College faculty since 1986.

## Daniel will mark pastor's 20th year

Daniel Memorial Church, 3784 Terry Road, Jackson, will celebrate its pastor's 20th anniversary on

April 5. Byron R. Malone will be recognized with a special reception/brunch in the church's Christian Life Center beginning at 9 a.m. and running through the Sunday School hour.

There will also be special recognition of the pastor and his family during the morning worship hour, beginning at 10:30 a.m. Highlights from his ministry at Daniel will be presented by leaders within the church, those who have gone into the ministry under his leadership, and former staff members who served with him.

Sharing in this celebration will be the pastor's wife, Barbara Jean, and their three children: Cindy Townsend, minister to students at First Church, Jackson; Byron Lee Malone, minister of youth and recreation at First Church, McComb; and Jennifer Malone, currently a freshman at Mississippi College.

The public is invited to share in this celebration.



Allen



Malone

# Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams

## "Grannie" leads the way to memorizing Scripture

She stood before them and said the Sermon on the Mount with perfect ease. For 22 minutes they listened, spellbound. That opened the path to Charlotte Triplett's becoming "Grannie" to the junior and senior high youths of First Church, Jackson.

"They absolutely love her," said Cindy Townsend, minister of youth. "She encourages them to memorize Scripture," she added. Every Sunday she visits at least two departments, one at each Sunday School hour, to do this.

She writes over 400 personal notes in birthday cards to youths of the church each year, inserting many Scripture references in each message. For unsaved youths, she refers to special verses. "There were 17 birthdays in one week of August," Charlotte remembers.

As prayer coordinator, she prays for all youth events, for youth leaders, and for unsaved youths. "She is our prayer ministry backbone," said Cindy.

The youth minister said she feels that Charlotte, the only senior adult working with youths, is filling a real need. "Many of our youths' grandparents do not live nearby. For them, she is a role model; they need this type of loving example. Kids visit her to help clean house or to rake her yard."

This all started four years ago when Charlotte heard Cindy assign to the youths several verses from Philippians.

"Why don't you challenge them to learn something longer?" she asked. "Like the Sermon on the Mount?"

"Do you know that?" Cindy shot back, not really expecting she did.

"Yes."

"Would you say it to them?"

"If you will give me a little time to review." (This answer came with only slight hesitation, for Charlotte had suddenly heard the Lord say to her, "This is it!")

In 1980, her husband, Joe Triplett, associate pastor of First Church, Jackson, had died of cancer. "During his illness," she said recently, "we did not question God. But afterward, I went through a period of asking, 'Why? He was such a good man, giving so much of himself to others. Why, Lord did you take him and not me?'"

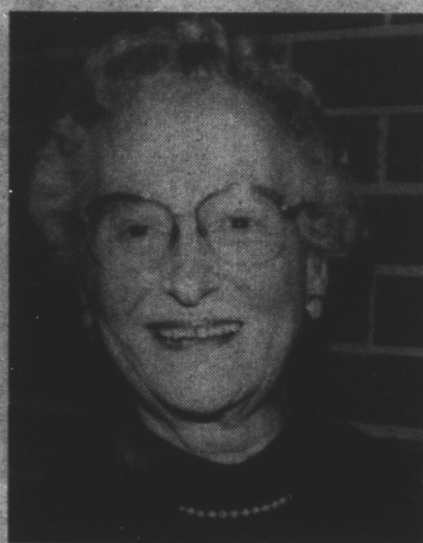
She had found her answer in Philippians 2:13 — "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." And she had said to God, "If you can use this lump of clay, here I am."

As she listened to Cindy's request, she realized that her ability to memorize Scripture was something she could offer to God. Few knew she had memorized the Sermon on the Mount. "I had been hiding my light under a bushel," she said. "Now I knew I must let it shine."

To the youths she offered to give \$50 to the first to learn the Sermon. Three others added \$50, to make it \$200. Angie Sigrest, then a high school senior, was the first to earn it. Now another similar challenge is waiting for a taker.

Charlotte herself learned the Sermon on the Mount when in the late 1930s she was a student at Johns Hopkins School of Nursing.

Born in West Point, Miss., daughter of Wm. Hearn VanLandingham and Louella Jennings VanLandingham, she had known by the time she was 8 that she wanted to be a nurse. Her



Charlotte Triplett

twin brother, David, became a doctor and practiced medicine in Jackson until the time of his death.

Her family did not especially want her to be a nurse, for then it was not a popular vocation for women. Yet, after her 1934 graduation from Blue Mountain, she was still determined to be one. Despite the Depression, an uncle of hers paid tuition for her at Johns Hopkins. "With \$10 a month for spending money," she remembers, "sometimes I was down to a dime."

At the train station in Baltimore, Perrin Lowrey, formerly of Blue Mountain, and a friend of her family, met her. Because he was attending University Church, she did, too. Days she had no trolley fare she walked the 3½ miles to Sunday School, New Testament in hand, memorizing the Sermon on the Mount.

Later, while a public health nurse in Meridian, she began dating Joseph Nimrod (Joe Rod) Triplett, pastor of nearby Marion Church. With her marriage to him in 1940, this twin became a Triplett.

Several years later, with Southern Seminary schooling behind him, the couple moved to Marion, Ala. where he had accepted the pastorate of Siloam Church. Judson College is at Marion; he was my pastor while I a student there; that was when I first knew Charlotte. I am indebted both to her and Brother Joe for contributions they made to my own life.

In her own family, she is Grannie to seven. Her daughter, Temple, is married to a doctor, Don Lauer; they live in Indiana. Her son, Rod, who became a neurosurgeon, has retired and lives in Huntsville, Ala.

Now in addition to youth work, Charlotte is involved in many church activities, such as Bible study luncheon at the church; two prayer groups; WMU (both general and small group meetings); Hospital Auxiliary; and also in volunteer work at Crestwood Center and at the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center emergency room.

When she gave the Sermon a second time to the young people, she used props as illustrations. She has also delivered the passage to other groups. One listener later challenged her own and two other families who vacation together to learn at least the fifth chapter of Matthew. Another listener asked for a Spanish Bible to give to the exchange student living at her house.

Being Grannie to the youths, Charlotte told Cindy, "has given me a reason to live — leaving behind me, in them, the desire to love and memorize God's Word."

## First, Natchez celebrates its 175th year

First Church, Natchez, will celebrate its 175th anniversary on April 26, with homecoming, 11 a.m. and dinner in the Family Life Center after the morning service. At 4 p.m., the sanctuary choir will present "Majesty," a musical arranged by Ron Huff, accompanied by members of the Jackson Symphony Orchestra.

The organization of the First Baptist Church in Natchez occurred when nine members met at the home of John Richards, on Jefferson Street, in 1817, the same year Mississippi was admitted as the twentieth State of the Union.

An impetus was given to the development of Baptist work in Natchez in 1835 with the arrival of Ashley Vaughn, who came to the area in search of health.

Vaughn was editor of the Southwestern Religious Luminary, which he established. This was the first Baptist paper established in the Southwest. Vaughn used his columns freely for the purpose of encouraging the Baptists to organize a state convention. His efforts proved fruitful. Associations suggested a meeting of representatives at Clear Creek Church in December 1836, to organize a convention.

The Baptist leaders who met in December of 1836, organized the Mississippi State Baptist Convention.

The longest pastorate in the history of First Church, Natchez, was that of W. A. Sullivan, who was minister from December 1926, until 1952.

During Sullivan's pastorate the centennial of the Mississippi State Baptist Convention was celebrated at its annual session, held with the Natchez church in November 1936. Three hundred ninety six messengers came to the hundredth anniversary of the organization of the convention in Natchez.

The present pastor, Odean W. Puckett, began his pastorate on Oct. 15, 1973. The church approved plans on May 23, 1976, to relocate on the D'Evereaux Drive property. First, Natchez, then approved plans on March 7, 1982, to construct a new \$3,000,000 sanctuary. Ground breaking for it was held Jan. 16, 1983.

It is common to overlook what is near by keeping the eye on something remote. In the same manner present opportunities are neglected and attainable good is slighted by minds busied in extensive ranges, and intent upon future advantages. Life, however short, is made shorter by waste of time. — Samuel Johnson

## Plans are underway for "Mission 95"

NASHVILLE (BP) — Citing the success of "Mission 90," Southern Baptist student ministry leaders are making plans for another national after-Christmas student missions conference in 1994.

An advisory committee of representatives from Southern Baptist agencies, seminaries, state conventions, campus ministries, local churches and Woman's Missionary Union met in Nashville March 16-17 to make preliminary plans for "Mission 95." Such student missions conferences have been held about every five years since 1970.

The advisory committee selected Louisville, Ky., as its first choice for Mission 95 and Dec. 27-30, 1994, as tentative dates for the conference.

Thursday, April 2, 1992

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5

## Spring housecleaning

By Margaret H. Rogers

"He shall pronounce the house clean" (Lev. 14:48).

The events in the book of Leviticus take place after the exodus from Egypt and the giving of the law at Sinai. It concerns the formalizing of Israel's religious practices and regulations for worship. This focal passage has to do with regulations about mildew in the house, infectious diseases, and the necessity for cleansing before occupancy.

Is this not symbolic of requirement for worship today? Is not a cleansed heart and life prerequisite to effective worship? Some do not have high standards and none possibly would want their cleansing activities inspected. For Christians, spiritual cleanliness is not optional.

This is the season for spring housecleaning. The following words from an unknown author motivate us to renew our spiritual houses:

God knocked at the door of my heart one day and I looked for a place to hide. My soul was cluttered and choked with debris and things were untidy inside. I needed some time to put matters right, surprised He would call on me. My soul needed cleaning from bottom to top, there were things He shouldn't see. There were tasks neglected, long overdue, cobwebs to be brushed from the walls. Rugs to be shaken and windows cleaned up for I had not expected this call. I stood with my hand on the latch of the door and gazed at the mess in the room. When I opened the door my soul blushed to see God had left on my doorstep, a broom!

With the broom of God's grace, the task of spiritual housecleaning can be done with less drudgery. One by one we can remove the cobwebs of hypocrisy, wipe away the dust of selfishness, and vacuum the carpet of criticism in order to present a clean spiritual house for divine inspection and approval. God will help us clean out our spiritual dwelling, discarding soil and clutter and leaving humility and love!

Rogers lives in Collins, and is Sunday School teacher at Salem Church.

## "Jesus wants us to"

By Indy Whitten

It was 4 p.m. on a Saturday in March. I saw a car pull up in our driveway. Four eager girls seemed to jump out before the blue Chevy had accomplished more than a rolling stop. They were from the Burch Hill Baptist Church, a small congregation almost on the line between Clinton and Jackson.

I expected them and their adult leader, since they had made a date earlier in the week. They wanted to earn money through work around our house to be able to give to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions.

The five eagerly set to work, raking and sacking leaves; washing the carport; sweeping down cobwebs and cleaning off the back deck. Lemonade and cookies are available on the front steps, and occasionally one of the workers stopped by, but only briefly.

When they finished and rakes, brooms, and garden hose were back in place, I wanted to thank them.

"Thank you so much! It's great that you work and give what you earn to the home mission offering."

The earnest reply, which seemed almost impatient that I didn't understand, came back immediately, "Jesus wants us to!"

Whitten is prayer coordinator, MBCB.

## Tarpley retires second time after 55 years of service

Long time Baptist minister Fred Tarpley recently retired from the pastorate of First Church, Fannin, near the Ross Barnett Reservoir, where he had been pastor for eight years. In 1980, he had first retired after 16 years as director of missions for the Hinds-Madison area, with his office in Jackson.

Altogether he has given 55 years of service in Baptist work, with around 39 of those years spent as a pastor.

Tarpley states that as he looks back over his ministry, he and his wife, Ann, are probably proudest of being able to help start 30 Baptist churches. Among these were Ridgecrest, Jackson, where he was once pastor; Wildwood Lakeshore, Twin Lakes, and Trace Ridge.

The Tarpleys, native Tennesseans, have spent the past 40 years in Mississippi, but have also served churches in Kentucky and Tennessee. He earned degrees from University of Tennessee and Southern Seminary.

The two have been married for 59 years. "We met at a revival when we were 12," he said, "and married at 21."

They have three sons and seven grandchildren. Fred Tarpley Jr. has spent 30 years on the faculty of Georgia Tech, where he is now dean



Fred and Ann Tarpley

of industrial management. John Tarpley, a surgeon, is a Southern Baptist missionary in Nigeria. Joe Tarpley has an insurance agency in Madison.

Though he is a spectator sports fan and will now take time for that, the senior Fred said he expects still to be available for pulp supply, interim pastorate, or as a senior citizen speaker. He and Mrs. Tarpley live at 1032 Bridgeport Lane, Madison, MS 39110 (phone 856-6767).

# Dark of night: terror Sunshine: aid arrives

By Craig Bird

**KERICHO, Kenya (BP)** — The warning arrived in the dead of night: "We don't want to hurt you. You are free to go back where you belong."

The unwritten threat: "If you stay, we'll burn you out. If you fight back, we'll attack."

But the gospel, and humanitarian aid accompanying it, arrived in bright sunshine for 150 families in the Kericho District of western Kenya. They had stayed but not fought back when raiders came to burn their village. Although unharmed, they owned only the clothes they wore and a handful of items they had hidden in the woods.

They are just a few of more than 20,000 people displaced in the past year by ethnic clashes over land. The trouble exploded in late 1991 when tribes indigenous to Kenya's Rift Valley began demanding that other ethnic groups in their areas get out.

**"If you stay, we'll burn you out."**

The government (run by the Kenya African National Union or KANU) and newly legalized opposition parties blame each other for the trouble.

KANU says tribal tensions are the natural result of allowing multiple parties as each ethnic group forms its own power base. The opposition, led by the Forum for the Restoration of Democracy, insists KANU is fomenting unrest to scare people into keeping the current government in power.

But political debate won't keep off the cold night winds that patrol the hills of Kericho District, and charges

and countercharges don't fill the empty stomachs of refugees.

So when Samson Kisia, chairman of the Baptist Convention of Kenya, got word from a Baptist pastor that the village of Kepkelion had been burned out, he contacted Southern Baptist missionaries in Kenya. The missionaries agreed to help provide relief supplies, then asked Kisia to handle the distribution.

Each of the 150 families received blankets, cornmeal (the basic food for Kenyans), cooking oil, plates, and cups.

"We felt that would meet the immediate needs and we knew if any other aid did come it likely would be just cornmeal," Kisia said. "This way they had something to cook in, something to eat from, and blankets to keep warm." The project cost about \$3,000.

But Kisia, the local Baptist pastors, and missionary Ben Hess had even more to give away: a testimony to the saving power of Jesus Christ and a witness of Christian love being impartial.

Almost all of the 150 families belonged either to the local Baptist church or a sect that considers itself Christian but teaches exclusion of groups outside its own fellowship. The Baptist church had been spared a torching but the sect's building had been razed, probably "because they sing and preach and worship in Kikuyu (their tribal language) and all members are Kikuyu while the Baptist church services are in Swahili (the national language) and the membership includes several tribes," Kisia said.

Bird writes for FMB.



## Enterprise operates feeding unit

Volunteers from Enterprise Church cook steaming hot meals for victims of the "Zero" tornado. The group operates the only feeding unit among Baptists other than the main disaster unit of the state convention. This was their second call to duty — a few weeks earlier they fed victims at Brooksville. Among

the volunteers were Erby Robinson, James Nutt, Tom Chisolm, Taylor Wallace (retired pastor), Wallace's grandchildren Scott and Daniel Smith, Earl Sikes, Dan Kersh, Tommy Smith, Mr. and Mrs. E. G. McPhearson, and their grandson Gabriel McPhearson. (Photo by Tim Nicholas)

## "Bush not supporting 'gay' rights"

By Tom Strobe

**WASHINGTON (BP)** — President George Bush is not committed to a new agenda supporting homosexual rights, a White House aide has told two Southern Baptist leaders.

The March 10 letter from a Bush administration official came as a response to a Feb. 19 letter from Morris Chapman, Southern Baptist Convention president, and Richard D. Land, Christian Life Commission executive director, asking the president to "disavow any support or sympathy for the homosexual civil rights agenda." Chapman and Land made the request of President Bush after Robert Mosbacher, chairman of the Bush/Quayle campaign, met with homosexual activists Feb. 13.

"The president has not made any

policy changes that reflect a departure from his commitment to family values," Leigh Ann Metzger said in the letter, "and I assure you that this meeting was not related to any new policy agenda."

"This meeting was of a personal nature and did not include administration officials," said Metzger, who is deputy assistant to the president for public liaison.

President Bush again declared his faithfulness to traditional family values in a March 3 speech to the National Association of Evangelicals, Metzger said. In his address, the president expressed support for protection of the unborn, educational choice, the fight against obscenity and child pornography, and prayer in public schools.

The Christian Life Commission and National Association of Evangelicals both asked the White House to use the NAE speech as an opportunity to disclaim support for homosexual rights. The president did not mention the issue in his 24-minute address.

President Bush would like to discuss family issues with evangelical leaders, Metzger said in her letter.

In October 1990 Chapman, Land, and 16 other evangelical leaders met with the president after the White House twice hosted homosexual activists at bill-signing ceremonies. They were told the invitations did not reflect support for the homosexual rights agenda.

Strobe is director, media & news information, Washington office, CLC.

## Former Mississippian adjusts to new role as ethicist

**WASHINGTON — (BP)** "My pulpit has been expanded," says former Tennessee Baptist pastor C. Ben Mitchell.

Instead of preaching every Sunday as he once did, Mitchell now is adjusting to his new role as a Southern Baptist ethicist, which involves education and research. Mitchell joined the staff of the SBC Christian Life Commission in January as director of biomedical ethics and life concerns.

After serving as pastor for some years and dealing with ethical issues in counseling situations, Mitchell notes he became especially interested in medical ethics. The former pastor of Middle Valley Church in Hixson, Tenn., was elected as a commissioner of the CLC in 1986.

Serving as a trustee for Southern

Baptists' moral concerns and ethics agency further sparked his interest in that field, he says.

Mitchell has completed his course work and needs only to finish his dissertation to earn a Ph.D. in philosophy with a concentration in medical ethics. He also holds degrees from Mississippi State University in Starkville and Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. Mitchell was pastor of Poplar Flat Church in Winston Association for three years.

He sees his function as a provider of information so Southern Baptists can be aware of the project and also as an encourager of the project's useful functions while at the same time cautioning researchers about potential dilemmas.

## Baptist World Alliance:

### "Where every Baptist should feel at home"

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (BWA)** — Baptists have much work to do to share the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ with the world, secure human

and religious rights and give humanitarian aid to those in need, but that work will not be done unless Baptists, who are in conflict in many parts of the world, unite and resolve their differences "at the foot of the Cross."

This is the message that the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) is sending to the 37 million baptized believers in more than 200 countries around the world that it represents from its Executive Committee meetings, March 2-5.

Describing disunity as "the cancer that like a roaring lion devours our energy, and blurs our vision," Denton Lotz, general secretary of the BWA, and a leading missiologist seemed to voice the burden of those who attended when he said his study of church history and especially of missions show that "disunity has been one of

the greatest hindrances to evangelism."

The need for evangelization of the world, emphasized by Knud Wumpelmann, president of the BWA, as "the ultimate purpose" of the work of the BWA, was underscored again and again in reports to the committee from around the world, especially the need to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ to areas that have not been seriously affected by it.

Declaring the intention of the BWA "to continue to be an instrument of God in uniting our Baptist people around the world in a great movement of world evangelization and compassion," Lotz reminded the committee that "the BWA is the place where every Baptist should feel at home."

## Former diplomat becomes ambassador for Christ

**WASHINGTON (BP)** — A former Guyanese foreign service officer to America is now using his diplomatic skills as an ambassador for Christ.

Cecil Mahendranath was appointed in December by the Home Mission Board to minister to diplomats and foreign embassy personnel in Washington.

Most of his work is directed at helping families of embassy staff but can range from Christian counseling for a diplomat to fashion advice for an

ambassador's wife.

"My whole idea is to penetrate into the embassies and offer whatever services we can in the name of Christ," he said.

Although diplomats and staff spend an average three to four years in America, they often receive little help from their government in getting established, Mahendranath said.

Mahendranath said he felt a sense of "total loss" when he and his wife, Shirley, arrived in New York in 1977

for his new job with the Guyana office at the United Nations.

During one of their first nights in America, the two of them were praying for a church home, fellowship, and an opportunity for Christian service when the doorbell rang.

At their door was Avery Sayer, a Southern Baptist home missionary who invited them to a chapel service in their apartment complex.

"That is how God answers prayer right away in some instances," Mahendranath said.

# HOUSETOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

April 2, 1992

HOUSETOPS is a supplement to the Baptist Record and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

## CHURCHES CELEBRATE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM DAY APRIL 12, 1992

**W**hen Mississippi Baptist churches celebrate Cooperative Program Day, we are celebrating more than a date on the denominational calendar.

### *We celebrate missions.*

The Cooperative Program has allowed Baptists to build a missionary delivery system which stretches from the local church to the ends of the Earth. Those answering God's call to missions have been encouraged by denominational leaders at the college, seminary, state and international levels of Baptist life. When missionaries are sent, while they serve, and even after they retire, the Cooperative Program provides their essential support. Our offerings turn money into missions, and that may be the most noble enterprise in which any of us have the privilege to be involved. Through the Cooperative Program we are fulfilling the Great Commission of Jesus Christ.

### *We celebrate success.*

Before the Cooperative Program was approved in 1925, Baptists failed time and again to put their love for missions into effective action. Missionary boards were drowning in red ink, and local churches were swamped with countless appeals for more money. The Cooperative Program moved us from a fragmented society of well-wishers into the most powerful missionary-sending denomination of the twentieth century. The Cooperative Program can keep us from fragment-

ing our efforts in the future also. By refocusing our missions calling and by recommitting ourselves to collaboration as God's people, we can win victory for the gospel of Christ around the world.

### *We celebrate partnership.*

To join with Christ in his mission of redeeming the world is the greatest partnership life offers. When churches are willing to sacrifice a generous portion of their gifts for missions through the Cooperative Program, they demonstrate partnership with Christ and with one another. When state conventions share Cooperative Program gifts with the Southern Baptist Convention, then the church's partnership with Christ is extended to worldwide proportions. The combined strength of Mississippi joining 37 other state conventions ensures that foreign and home missions receive primary consideration in funding. Fairness and sacrifice at every level of Cooperative Program giving strengthens the partnership we have enjoyed for almost 70 years. The more sacrificial our monetary commitment to the Cooperative Program, the stronger will become our bonds to one another and to the missions calling we have received from God.

Posters, tracts, and other promotional plans to enhance your church's celebration may be ordered at no cost from the Stewardship Department in the Baptist Building by calling 968-3800.



**Harold R. Watson**  
Davao City, The Philippines  
Hometown: Hattiesburg/Brooklyn, Mississippi

"The Cooperative Program makes it possible for us to operate the Mindanao Baptist Rural Life Center. The Center teaches SALT, a soil conservation and multi-cropping system. Recently, I witnessed eight people baptized, all of them won to Christ by a farmer who attended the SALT training and became a witness for the Saviour he found there."



**David Bishop**  
Salem, New Hampshire  
Hometown: Ecru, Mississippi

Beginning Southern Baptist churches in New England takes a little longer than beginning one back home; however, gifts through the Cooperative Program help missionaries stay on the field long enough to see some of the barriers fall."



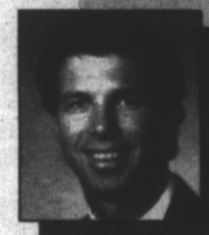
**Teri Vickers Metts (Mrs. Joe)**  
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic  
Hometown: Jackson, Mississippi

Jerusalem Baptist Church is in an area of the city that is often without electricity; however, evening worship goes on illuminated by a couple of candles and Christ's love. "I see this small community of believers shining forth out of the darkness to touch the lives of those living in this area known for its bars, clubs, and prostitutes." Pray that Teri and Jerusalem Baptist Church will continue to be a "light shining forth in the darkness of sin in this poor area of Santo Domingo."



**Ginny Cannata (Mrs. Sam, Jr.)**  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Hometown: Hollandale, Mississippi

The Cannatas plan to retire soon after 35 years in Africa. The Cooperative Program is helping Ginny and Sam leave something of great value in Ethiopia—Christ's disciples. "What a joy this has been to us."



**Russell Kyzar**  
Costa Rica  
Hometown: Natchez, Mississippi

"One of the effective ways we proclaim the salvation of God in Costa Rica is through the various choral groups we have had the privilege to lead. Cooperative Program gifts make sheet music, transportation, promotional materials, and evangelistic tracts available to proclaim God's salvation day after day."



**Troy Smith**  
Portland, Oregon  
Hometown: Lucedale, Mississippi

Eighty people a year accept Christ through the Baptist Revival Center. The SAFE program - Setting Addicts Free Eternally - is to these new Christians what MasterLife has been to many others. Gifts through the Cooperative Program enable Troy to reach out to people who were once hopeless.

## SPRING RETREAT FOR MB CHAPLAIN'S ASSOCIATION

Harold Elliott, a fulltime Chaplain with the Arlington, Texas Police Department, will be leading the Spring Retreat for the Mississippi Baptist Chaplain's Association at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, May 1-2, 1992.

Elliott is a native of Clarendon, Texas, having attended the University of Texas and Southwestern Seminary. He has served as a chaplain for a decade. Elliott is a well known humorist and motivational presenter.

"Care for the Caregiver" will be the emphasis of the retreat.

Mrs. Norma Elliott will be leading the spouses on the "Role of the Chaplain's Wife." The Elliots have three children and four grandchildren.

The officers for the Mississippi Baptist Chaplain's Association are Jimmy Garrard, President; Joe Stovall, Vice-President; Drew Blanton, Secretary-Treasurer; George Crosby, Editor; and Billy J. Jones, State Coordinator.

Reservations can be made through the Cooperative Missions Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 968-3800, ext. 3961. April 20 is the deadline for reservations.



Harold & Norma Elliott

## MISSISSIPPI PRAYERGRAM

April 2-16, 1992

Pray for an urgent request from the Yemen Mission. The water supply for the Baptist Hospital is so reduced that they are having to buy water at the cost of \$200 a day. Pray that the rainy season will soon begin.

Pray for Christian personnel in Uzbekistan. The agency in England that is recruiting English teachers received a threatening call from a Muslim man, supposedly a part of the British Muslim organization. He said that he was going to report "the secret missionary agenda" to the Uzbek government. Threats were made to harm those in this program.

Pray for Neva Burk and her husband, Adrian, who direct the Center for Mission Training in Northborough, Mass. They very much need a volunteer or bivocational youth minister to work with the pastor of the Rice Memorial Baptist Church.

Pray for John Cook, Salt Lake City, Utah. John is church growth pastor of Millcreek Baptist Church. Pray for the pianist and for a volunteer to direct a multihousing ministry to reach residents of more than 3,000 apartments within a six-mile radius of the church.

Pray for Pete Owens, Director of Missions for the High County Baptist Association. He is responsible for ministering to churches in a 1,530 mile circuit.

Pray for Hiram and Shirley Powell, on-the-field coordinators of the Mississippi-Zimbabwe partnership. Shirley was hospitalized but is improved. They returned to the States March 18 and Shirley will see a cardiologist. Pray that they will get their work permit for Zimbabwe.

Pray for the Mississippi Brotherhood Department, as it cooperates with the emergency food distribution project to Russia, initiated by the Baptist World Alliance and coordinated by the Brotherhood Commission.

Pray that our Mississippi Baptist Churches will survey the needs around them and will seriously consider the need for starting new churches. Forty percent of the population of the state does not know Jesus.

## Zimbabwe Experiences

Many of us have heard of the wonderful results that our foreign missionaries are having on the foreign fields. If we in America would be as faithful in sharing the gospel as our missionaries and the Nationals are, we would see many people reached with the Gospel of Christ.

It was my privilege to preach in the Jambesi and Imbesi Baptist Churches in Zimbabwe, Africa.

The buildings were not completed. They were very small, 20 x 20 feet, but they were interested in seeing that their neighbors knew Christ as Savior.

Each afternoon at 1:30 we would meet for prayer, divide into groups, and go out to witness. Usually we had four groups of four individuals. By the time we reached their home, others gathered with us.

We heard many excuses similar to those we hear in America, but we did hear some new ones such as, "I will have to ask my husband if I can trust Christ." When we had completed our trip, many had been led to know the Lord as Savior. Only those who made a public profession of faith in the worship services and asked for baptism were counted. At the end of our stay, 130 people had come forward.

May the Lord give the same zeal to Mississippi Baptist churches.

Jack E. Maroon

Missions, and especially the special Mission offerings, have always been my love.

During my recent trip to Zimbabwe, I had the joy of seeing the results of the Lottie Moon offerings for Foreign Missions.

The missionaries lived in homes that were not lavish but comfortable. They had a four-wheel drive pick-up which was especially needful in the Bush where we served. We were stuck in the sand and it would have been impossible to get out without a pick-up truck. Three tires were ruined on the rocks during our 3-week stay.

The only lights we had for our services and for showing a film were bought with Lottie Moon offerings.

The tent that was our home while we were in the Bush was the result of your faithfulness to the Cooperative Program. It was purchased with Mississippi Zimbabwe Partnership funds.

My prayer for 1992 is that Mississippi Baptists will have the largest Lottie Moon Christmas offering in our history.

Fay Ross Maroon

These are the first in a series of testimonials from people who have traveled to Zimbabwe to participate in the Partnership project Mississippi Baptists have begun in that African country. These first two are from a married couple, Jack and Faye Maroon of First Church, Belmont. Other testimonials are scheduled to follow.

**NOTE:** There are seven vacancies on an evangelistic team for May 11-18. For details, contact Bill Hardy, partnership coordinator, at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. A couple is needed for extended service in food distribution. Those interested should inquire with Hardy.

## BREAK THROUGH EQUIP TO WIN

### Sunday School Leadership Conference

### Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

**GULFSHORE I**  
July 30-August 1, 1992

3:30-5:00 p.m.  
4:00 p.m.  
5:30-6:30 p.m.  
6:30 p.m.  
6:45-7:45 p.m.  
8:00-9:15 p.m.  
9:30-10:00 p.m.

Friday

6:40 a.m.  
7:00-8:00 a.m.  
8:15 a.m.  
8:30-10:00 a.m.  
10:00-10:30 a.m.  
10:30-12:00 Noon  
12:00 Noon-1:00 p.m.  
1:30-4:00 p.m.  
5:30-6:30 p.m.  
6:30 p.m.  
6:45-8:10 p.m.  
8:15-9:15 p.m.

Saturday

6:40 a.m.  
7:00-8:00 a.m.  
8:15 a.m.  
8:30-10:00 a.m.  
10:00-10:30 a.m.  
10:30-11:30 a.m.  
11:45 a.m.

**GULFSHORE II**  
August 6-8, 1992

Registration  
Faculty Meeting  
Dinner  
Preschool building opens  
General Session  
Session I  
Ice cream fellowship

Bible study on Pier  
Breakfast  
Preschool building opens  
Session II  
Break  
Session IV  
Lunch  
Special conference or free time  
Dinner  
Preschool building opens  
Selective Conferences  
General Session

Bible study on Pier  
Breakfast  
Preschool building opens  
Session IV  
Break  
General Session  
Lunch



Gary Berry  
Pastor, Temple  
Baptist Church  
Hattiesburg,  
MS



Joe N. McKeever  
Pastor,  
First Baptist  
Church  
Kenner, LA

Conferences for Preschool and Children's Leadership include:

- Directors/Teachers (New)
- Directors/Teachers (More than 2 years experience)
- Division Directors and Staff

Youth leadership conferences include:

- Teachers and Directors of young youth
- Teachers and Directors of older youth

Adult Conferences include:

- Directors/Class officers
- Teachers of 46 and above
- Teachers of 18-45

General Officers include:

- General officers
- Pastors

Conferences

- Preschool — birth through Pre-first
- Children — completed grades 1-6
- Youth — completed grades 7-12

July 30-August 1

Worship leader  
Music leader

Gary Berry  
Paul Koonce

August 6-8

Worship leader  
Music leader

Joe McKeever  
Dwayne Sims

For Housing information contact Frank Simmons. Phone: 601/452-7261 For Program information contact Sunday School Department. Phone: 601/968-3800

# HOUSE TOPS

## Commit to Planning for the New Church Year - 1992-93

- Begin with the Church Council
  - The Church Council is made up of pastor, church staff members, Sunday School director, Discipleship Training director, WMU director, Brotherhood director, chairman of deacons, finance chairman, and certain ex-officio members.
  - Study *Church Council Handbook*, by Truman Brown
- Secure copies of *Church Planning Handbook, 1992-93*, for each member of the Church Council from Ministry Office of Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.
- Identify the church's mission
  - Discover church and community needs
  - Determine priorities
- Commit to action
  - Set a few measurable goals
  - Make positive plans for reaching goals
  - Schedule actions into church calendar
  - Implement plans throughout the year
  - Evaluate progress and reschedule planning cycle

## Women in Missions

### 1992 VOLUNTEER PROJECTS:

#### • ILLINOIS—CHICAGO

Uptown Baptist Church

5-8 Miss. volunteers needed

July 25 - August 1

\$400-\$450

Backyard Bible Club, other activities as requested (sewing, crafts, meal for street people, etc.)

#### • ILLINOIS—EAST ST. LOUIS

Christian Activity Center

5 Miss. volunteers needed

August 13 - 15

\$200 - \$225

Back-to-school event for children (supply distribution, haircuts, etc.) clothing distribution

#### • MISSISSIPPI—NEW CHOCTAW

(Philadelphia Area)

8 Miss. volunteers needed

July 13 - 17

\$100 or less

Teach VBS, Backyard Bible Club, sewing, music

(These projects will be done by joint teams of Mississippi and Illinois women.)

If interested, please contact Ashley McCaleb no later than April 16, by phone 968-3800, or write to **WMU Department**, Attention: Ashley McCaleb, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

## Finding Your Place in Ministry: PREPARATION

### Life Commitment Month April 1992

#### 18 Ways to Celebrate Life Commitment Month

1. **Worship Service**—a worship service planned around the theme of commitment to ministry service including special music, hymns about commitment; and an invitation to those sensing God's call to a ministry vocation.
2. **Testimonies**—by those serving as ministry volunteers or full time workers during worship services, midweek prayer service, or in newsletter or bulletin.
3. **Invitation Response Card**—Personal Commitment Card available free from Vocational Guidance, MSN 158; 127 Ninth Avenue, North; Nashville, TN 37234.
4. **Ministry Volunteer Recognition Day**—a complimentary breakfast or spotlight during worship service for ministry vocations volunteers.
5. **Newsletter Article** in your church bulletin.
6. **Poster**—Life Commitment Month Poster available from Vocational Guidance, BSSB.

In promoting the Gulfshore summer events in the last issue of HouseTops, the editor (me, Tim Nicholas) inadvertently switched two pages of materials, placing all conference leaders for the four Sunday School Leadership Conference weeks into the wrong weeks. Those which were to go in the first two weeks were listed as in the last two, and vice versa.

Here they are, corrected. The four conferences are July 30-Aug. 1; Aug. 6-8; Sept. 4-5; and Sept. 11-12. They are represented below as I, II, III, and IV, respectively.

**Preschool:** I—Rachel Coe, Judy Hicks, Amy Morrow; II—Peggy Ward, Nancy Bullock, Jackie Winters; III—Peggy Ward, Paula Stringer, Nell Gully; IV—Carolle Green;  
**Children:** I—Cathy Jeffcoats, Evelyn Vaughn, Doris Collins; II—Cathy Jeffcoats, Cindy Sansing, Darlene Koch; III—Cindy Lumpkin, Barbara Brown, Rob Sauls; IV—Tom McMinn;  
**Preschool Lab School:** I—Barbara Murray, Nancy Bullock, April Hicks, Janice Hopkins, Eva Cain, Barbara Freeman, Miriam Timmons, Toby Denon; Cecilia Frazier, Dot Fleming; II—Barbara Murray, Dianne Miller, Janice Hopkins, Tammie Sullivan, Barbara Freeman, Peggy

7. **Staff Testimonies**—ministers sharing personal experience of God's call.
8. **Book Study**—*Finding Your Place in Ministry*, by John Hendrix
9. **Study Course Diploma Study**—weekly study of Church Vocation Preparation Diploma.
10. **Christian Career Fair**—leaders in a variety of vocations, secular and ministry oriented.
11. **Youth Apprenticeship Program**—free copy of Youth Apprenticeship Guide available from Discipleship Training, 127 Ninth Avenue, North Nashville, TN 37234.
12. **Missions Experiences**—information available from Home and Foreign Mission Boards.
13. **Vocational Guidelines Pamphlets**—free copies of Vocational Guidelines. Series available from Vocational Guidance, BSSB.
14. **College Visit**—to nearest Baptist college, university, or seminary.
15. **Seminary Extension Courses**—information available from Seminary Extension, 901 Commerce Street, Suite 500, Nashville, TN 37203-3697.
16. **Scholarship fund** to assist with educational expenses for vocations volunteers.
17. **Media Library Display**—of resources about ministry vocations, career decision-making, and biographies of Christian leaders.
18. **Monologue**—from *How God Called* by Alice Magill.

• **Resources available** from Baptist Sunday School Board, Customer Service Center, 127 Ninth Avenue, North, Nashville, TN 37234, or call toll-free 1-800-458-2772, or at your nearest Baptist Book Store.

*How God Called*, Alice Magill, compiler, \$1.85

*Responding to God's Call: A Biblical Guide to Vocational Christian Ministry*, by Dick Rader, \$6.95

*Pursuing God's Call: Choosing A Vocation in Ministry*, by Felix Montgomery, \$4.35

*Finding Your Place in Ministry*, by John Hendrix, \$5.25

For more information contact Matt Buckles, Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Dept., MBCB, 968-3800 extension 3907

Hathcock, Dot Fleming;

**Children Lab School:** I—Betty Davis, Joann White, Betty Jeane Smith, Dianne Crawley, Pete Smith; II—Betty Davis, Joann White, Judy Wooley, Pete Smith, Betty Jeane Smith;

**Youth Bible Study:** I—Joy Emery; II—Joy Emery;

**Adult:** I—Carolyn Ulmer; Ferris Jordan; Keith Williams; II—Carolyn Ulmer; Ferris Jordan; Bill Chitwood; III—Wayne Edwards; Jeff Ingram; Keith Williams; IV—Wayne Edwards; Jeff Ingram;

**Youth:** I—Randy Johnson; Mark Lott; II—Randy Johnson, Marilyn Bullman; III—Ronnie Falvey; Marilyn Bullman; IV—Ronnie Falvey; Mark Lott;

**General Officers and Pastors:** I—Pete Demoss, Randy Tompkins; II—Jack Ready, Randy Tompkins; III—Bob Mathis; IV—Bob Mathis;

**Worship leaders:** I—Gary Berry; II—Joe McKeever; III—Willa Ruth Garlow; IV—Art Burcham;

**Great Commission training leaders:** IV—Wayne Poling; Randy Tompkins; Art Burcham;

**Music leaders:** I—Paul Koonce; II—Dwayne Sims;

**Pianists:** I—Betty Regal; II—Brenda Sims.

## FOCUS ON FAMILIES THIS SPRING, 1992

### SENIOR ADULT DAY

MAY 3

THEME: "Heritage, Happiness, and Hope"

### CHRISTIAN HOME EMPHASIS

MAY 4 — JUNE 21 Mother's Day to Father's Day

THEME: "Christian Families Growing Stronger"

#### Suggested Events:

- May 6 — In Celebration of the Christian Family Rally
  - Family Nurture Workshop
- May 10 — Mother's Day
  - Launch "Families in Bible Study and Worship"
  - A Sunday School plan for May 10 - June 21
  - A sermon series
  - Begin study of special age group books
  - Sunday nights
- May 17 — Graduate's Day Emphasis
- May 22-25 — Memorial Day Weekend family retreat
- June 13 — Kid's Day Out
- June 14 — Children's Day
- June 21 — Father's Day

Every Monday — Home Lifetime (Family night at home)

Home Life Magazine carries suggestions

Every Wednesday Night — Family Night at Church

### RESOURCES AVAILABLE

The 1992 Family Ministry Planbook

Mailed to all churches from the Baptist Sunday School Board

Additional copies available from the Family Ministry Section, Discipleship Training Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530

The Christian Home Emphasis Preview/Planning Resource Kit

A complete set of materials designed to help plan, promote and conduct a comprehensive Christian Home Emphasis. Available from the Baptist Book Store or by phone from the Baptist Sunday School Board, 1-800-458-BSSB

(SINGLE ADULT DAY IS SUGGESTED FOR SEPTEMBER 6)

THEME: "Single Adults Achieving Wholeness In Christ"

## BOLD NEW GROWTH 1992

Examples of new units that could be started by your church:

- Active Church Missions Development
- New Missions/Churches by September 30, 1992 (Anglo, Black or Ethnic)
- Literacy Ministries
- Food/Clothing Ministries
- Jail/Prison Ministries
- Other possibilities include Deaf, Language and Chaplaincy Ministries

For assistance contact:

COOPERATIVE MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

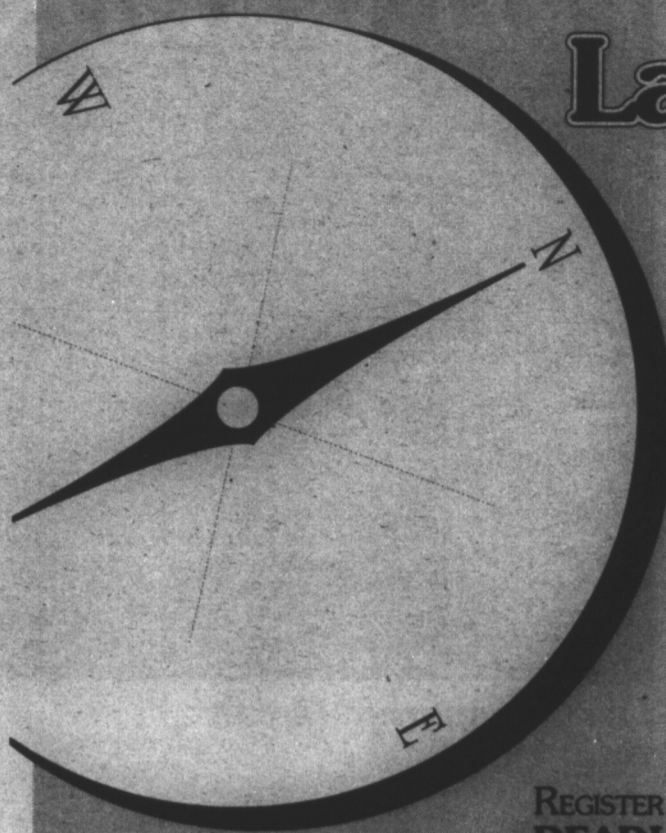
MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION BOARD

P. O. BOX 530

JACKSON, MS 39205-0530

(601)968-3800

Find Your Way to...



# Lad/Crusader Day 1992

CENTRAL HILLS BAPTIST RETREAT

9 A.M. - 3 P.M.  
APRIL 25, 1992

COST: \$2.50  
**Bring a sack lunch**  
(No meal will be provided.)

REGISTER EARLY!

**DEADLINE: APRIL 21**

Maximum Attendance 500

"A Ministry of the Cooperative Program"



### R.A. RACERS (must be official R.A. Racers)

Divisions for Competition

- Grade 1
- Grades 2-3
- Grade 4
- Grades 5-6

Car Specifications

- Overall Length: 7 inches (Max.)
- Overall Width: 2 3/4 inches (Max.)
- Weight: 5 ounces (Max.)

The wheels on the car must be the ones in the kit.



### MISSION PROJECT

Chapters may want to submit an outstanding mission project that they have been involved in during the past year. These will be judged and ribbons awarded.



### CHAPTER BANNER COMPETITION

Banners should not exceed 4 x 6 feet. Should contain chapter name and other mission information.



### SPEAKOUT

Divisions for Competition

- Grade 4
- Grades 5-6

Topic

To be taken from the Royal Ambassador Pledge

Time Allowance  
1-3 minutes



### SHOW & TELL

Divisions for Competition

- Grade 1
- Grades 2-3

Topic

Bring something related to missions to tell about.

Time Allowance  
1-3 minutes



### CAMP CRAFT COMPETITION

Competitive events involving knots, compass, and other related areas.

### NOTES:

There will be overnight camping available for a limited number of groups. Each group would have to supply its own equipment and meals. We must know by April 10, however, if you plan to camp so necessary arrangements can be made. Additional cost will be \$1 per person. Arrangements can be made through Dan West, Manager of Central Hills, P. O. Box 723, Kosciusko, MS 39090, phone 289-9730.

For registration information, please write: Brotherhood Department • MBCB • P. O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205 or call: (601)968-3800, extension: 3935

# HOUSE OF JONAS

# Southern Baptist Convention

June 9-11, 1992

Hoosier Dome, Indianapolis

Theme: *Bold Believers in a Broken World*

Tuesday Morning, June 9

- 8:15 Music for Inspiration — First Church Choir, Wichita Falls, Texas, John Mark Benson, minister of music
- 8:30 Call to Order
- 8:35 Congregational Singing — Jack Price, convention music director, Garland, Texas; Dick Thomassian, music associate, minister of music, Whitesburg Church, Huntsville, Ala.
- 8:35 Prayer — Laverne Butler, president, Mid-Continent Bible College, Mayfield, Ky.
- 8:40 Registration Report and Constitution of Convention — Lee Porter, registration secretary, assistant pastor, St. Andrew Church, Panama City, Fla.
- 8:45 Committee on Order of Business (First Report) — O.S. Hawkins, chairman, pastor, First Church, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.
- 8:50 Introduction of Vice President — Morris H. Chapman, president, pastor, First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas
- 8:55 Welcome
- 8:55 Response — Charles W. Sullivan, executive director-treasurer, State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, Indianapolis
- 9:15 Announcement of Committee on Committees, Credentials, Resolutions, and Tellers
- 9:20 Golden Gate Seminary Report — William O. Crews, president, Mill Valley, Calif.
- 9:30 Introduction of Business and Resolutions
- 9:55 Executive Committee Report (Part 1) — Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer, Nashville
- 10:55 Historical Commission Report — Lynn E. May Jr., executive director, Nashville
- 11:05 Congregational Singing — Dick Thomassian
- 11:10 Music — Wichita Falls First Church Choir; Chris Chapman, soloist, First Church, Lakeland, Fla.
- 11:20 President's Address — Morris H. Chapman, pastor, First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas
- 12:00 Benediction — Tom Bacus, layman, First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas

Tuesday Afternoon, June 9

- 1:00 Music for Inspiration — First Church Choir, Franklin, Tenn., Denny Dawson, minister of music; The Gaithers and Vocal Band, Alexandria, Ind.; Michelle Gage, soloist, Euless, Texas; Trinity Trio, Kim and Suzanne Noblitt, and Tim Vaught, Henderson Hill Church, Edmond, Okla.
- 1:55 Congregational Singing — Curtis Brewer, minister of music, First Church, Odessa, Texas
- 2:00 Prayer — Robert McGee, president and founder, Rapha Hospital Treatment Centers, Houston
- 2:05 Messenger Information Survey — Martin B. Bradley, director, corporate planning and research department, Sunday School Board, Nashville
- 2:10 Business
- 2:10 Committee on Order of Business (Second Report)
- 2:20 Introduction of Business and Resolutions
- 2:20 Crossover Indianapolis — James Merritt, pastor, First Church, Snellville, Ga.; and Freddie Gage, evangelist, Euless, Texas, co-chairmen
- 2:30 Election of Officers
- 2:45 Committee on Nominations Report — Bobby Boyles, chairman, pastor, First Church, Moore, Okla.
- 3:00 Music — First Church Choir, Franklin, Tenn.
- 3:05 Executive Committee Report (Part 2) — Harold C. Bennett
- 4:00 Congregational Singing — Curtis Brewer
- 4:05 Business
- 4:05 Committee on Order of Business (Third Report)
- 4:05 Committee on Committees Report
- 4:05 Introduction of Business and Resolutions
- 4:05 Miscellaneous Business
- 4:45 Election of Officers (Second)
- 5:00 Benediction — Leo Lytle, pastor, Bentley Church, Bentley, La.

Tuesday Evening, June 9

- 6:30 Music for Inspiration — First Church Choir, Norfolk, Va., Larry White, minister of music
- 7:00 Congregational Singing — Steve White, First Church, Merritt Island, Fla., minister of music
- 7:05 Prayer — Bob Litton, pastor, Utica Church, Utica, Ky.
- 7:10 Election of Officers (Third)
- 7:20 Bold Mission Thrust Report — Harold C. Bennett
- 7:30 Music — First Church Choir, Norfolk, Va.
- 7:35 Radio and Television Commission Report — Jack B. Johnson, president, Fort Worth, Texas
- 7:45 Southern Baptist Foundation Report — Hollis E. Johnson III, president, Nashville
- 7:55 Southeastern Seminary Report — Lewis A. Drummond, president, Wake Forest, N.C.
- 8:05 Special Recognition
- 8:25 Congregational Singing — Steve White
- 8:30 Home Mission Board Report — Larry L. Lewis, president, Atlanta
- 9:30 Benediction — Frank Minton, evangelist, Houston

Wednesday Morning, June 10

- 8:30 Music for Inspiration — Calvary Church Choir, Knoxville, Tenn., Darrell Hodge, minister of music

- 8:50 Congregational Singing — Robert Wagoner, First Church, Euless, Texas, minister of music
- 8:55 Prayer — Al Philips, pastor, Arcadia First Church, Arcadia, S.C.
- 9:00 Election of Officers (Fourth)
- 9:10 Southern Seminary Report — Roy L. Honeycutt, president, Louisville, Ky.
- 9:20 Southwestern Seminary Report — Russell H. Dilday Jr., president, Fort Worth, Texas
- 9:30 Stewardship Commission Report — A.R. Fagan, president, Nashville
- 9:40 Woman's Missionary Union Report — Dellanna W. O'Brien, executive director, Birmingham, Ala.
- 9:50 American Bible Society Report
- 10:00 Introduction of Past Presidents
- 10:05 Introduction of Fraternal Representatives
- 10:10 Congregational Singing — Robert Wagoner
- 10:15 Baptist Sunday School Board Report — James T. Draper Jr., president, Nashville
- 10:45 Music — Stone Brothers Trio, Rick, Randy and Rodney, Jacksonville, Fla.
- 10:50 Election of Officers (Fifth)
- 11:00 Business
- 11:00 Committee on Order of Business (Fourth Report)
- 11:00 Committee on Resolutions (First Report)
- 11:00 Miscellaneous Business
- 11:35 Congregational Singing — Robert Wagoner
- 11:40 Music — Cindi Price, soloist, Garland, Texas
- 11:45 Convention Sermon — Lewis A. Drummond, president, Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.
- 12:15 Benediction — Randy Ray, pastor, Emmanuel Church, Arcadia, La.

NO WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Wednesday Evening, June 10

- 6:15 Music for Inspiration — Mass Youth Choir, Denny Dawson
- 6:50 Congregational Singing — Roger Christian, music associate, minister of music, Roswell Street Church, Marietta, Ga.
- 6:55 Prayer — Joshua Grijalva, president, Hispanic Baptist Seminary, San Antonio, Texas
- 7:00 Business
- 7:00 Committee on Order of Business (Fifth Report)
- 7:00 Election of Convention Sermon Preacher and Alternate, and Music Director, 1993
- 7:00 Denominational Calendar Report — V.M. Piland, chairman, First Church, Tulsa, Okla.
- 7:10 Introduction of Local Arrangements Committee
- 7:10 Introduction of Newly Elected SBC Officers
- 7:15 Midwestern Seminary Report — Milton Ferguson, president, Kansas City, Mo.
- 7:25 New Orleans Seminary Report — Landrum P. Leavell II, president, New Orleans
- 7:35 Annuity Board Report — Paul W. Powell, president, Dallas
- 7:45 Presentation of Outgoing SBC Officers
- 7:50 Congregational Singing — Roger Christian
- 7:55 Christian Life Commission Report — Richard D. Land, executive director, Nashville
- 8:05 Baptist World Alliance Report — Denton Lotz, general secretary-treasurer, McLean, Va.
- 8:15 Foreign Mission Board Report — R. Keith Parks, president, Richmond, Va.
- 9:15 Benediction — Eugene R. Gibson, pastor, Mission of Faith Church, Chicago

Thursday Morning, June 11

- 8:30 Music for Inspiration — Council Road Church Choir, Bethany, Okla., Norman Behymer, minister of music
- 8:50 Congregational Singing — L.C. Campbell, Covenant Fellowship Church, Stuart, Fla.
- 8:55 Prayer — James W. Owens Jr., pastor, Morgan Memorial Church, Greenville, S.C.
- 9:00 Business
- 9:00 Committee on Resolutions (Final Report)
- 10:00 Brotherhood Commission Report — James D. Williams, president, Memphis, Tenn.
- 10:10 Report on the SBC Canada Planning Group — Larry L. Lewis
- 10:20 Congregational Singing — L.C. Campbell
- 10:25 Commission on the American Baptist Seminary — Arthur L. Walker Jr., secretary-treasurer, Nashville
- 10:35 Denominational Press Report — Herbert V. Hollinger, vice-president for Baptist Press, SBC Executive Committee, Nashville
- 10:45 Education Commission Report — Arthur L. Walker Jr., executive director, Nashville
- 10:55 Congregational Singing — L.C. Campbell
- 11:00 Music — Randy Elrod, soloist, minister of music, First Church, Summa, Ala.
- 11:05 Message — Charles Stanley, pastor, First Church, Atlanta
- 11:40 Benediction — John Greever, pastor, Pleasant Heights Church, Indianapolis

CONVENTION OFFICERS

- Morris H. Chapman, president, pastor, First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas
- Nelson Price, first vice-president, pastor, Roswell Street Church, Marietta, Ga.
- Ed Harrison Jr., second vice-president, Dollarway Church, Pine Bluff, Ark.
- David W. Atchison, recording secretary, layman, Two Rivers Church, Brentwood, Tenn.
- Lee Porter, registration secretary, assistant pastor, St. Andrew Church, Panama City, Fla.
- Harold C. Bennett, treasurer, president and treasurer, Executive Committee, Nashville

## Child care, shuttle buses are scheduled

INDIANAPOLIS (BP) — Registration for on-site child care for preschool children of out-of-town messengers during the 1992 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 9-11 in Indianapolis, is now being accepted.

Registration material is available by writing to SBC Preschool Child Care, c/o Shirley Bearce, 164 Congress Court, Mooresville, IN 46158.

The material includes information about policies, hours of operation, fees, and registration forms. Child care registration will be confirmed on a first-come, first-served basis.

In previously announced shuttle bus schedules, the fees published were incorrect. Shuttle buses to and from the Hoosier Dome and outlying hotels will cost \$12 with a reservation and \$15 without. They will run Sunday through Thursday on an hourly basis. For information, call 1-800-972-8952.

Organizers of the shuttle bus, Christian Travelers of Des Plaines, Ill., also will provide a transfer service from the Indianapolis airport to messengers' hotels. That service will cost \$10-\$25 depending on distance from the airport to the hotel.

To order passes and transfer service by mail, write Christian Travelers, 501 West Golf Road, Des Plaines, IL 60016.

SBC officials also are cooperating with USAir and WorldClass Travel in providing special rates for air travelers to and from Indianapolis.

A regular 5% discount also is available simply by noting you are attending the SBC annual meeting.

Messengers can call the travel agency, WorldClass Travel, Inc., at 1-800-237-0434, from 8:30 to 5:30 (Central Time), Monday through Friday.

## Women in Ministry set annual meeting for April 30

Southern Baptist Women in Ministry will hold their annual meeting on Thursday, April 30, at 11 a.m. at Broadway Church, Fort Worth, Tex.

The business session to elect new board members will begin at 11, followed by a luncheon. New board officers will be announced as well as other news of interest to women in ministry. The meeting will adjourn in time for participants to catch shuttle buses to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Pre-Convocation Institutes at Fort Worth/Tarrant County Convention Center.

Registration forms are in the current issue of Folio or can be obtained by writing Southern Baptist Women in Ministry, 2800 Frankfort Avenue, Louisville, Ky 40206 or calling the SBWIM office at (502) 896-4425. Cost for the luncheon if registered by April 10, is \$8; after April 10, cost for the luncheon is \$10.

## Campers will rally in Illinois

Illinois and Indiana chapters of Campers On Mission have announced the National Campers On Mission Rally to be held June 16-18, at Logan County Fairgrounds, Lincoln, Ill. The rally will begin at 7 p.m. on June 16 and close at noon on June 18.

Those interested in attending should contact Mrs. Elizabeth Starner, 901 Flame, Effingham, IL 62401, phone (H) 217-342-3230; (O) 217-342-3976. Registration fee is \$15 per family. While camping, fee is \$8 per night per unit, which will include water and electricity.

# Staff changes

East Heights Church, Tupelo, has called Jerry Thomas King as minister of youth, activities, and evangelism. He has served as youth director at East Heights since 1984. In 1991, he accepted the call as a full time staff member. He attended Mississippi State University.

Tate Street Church, Corinth, has called Gregory D. Warnock as pastor effective March 15. A native of Savannah, Ga., he received his education at Armstrong State College and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was Crossgates Church, Brandon, where he served as associate pastor, youth; and since November 1991 he has served as interim pastor.

First Church, Jackson, has called Glenn Crosthwait and Rob Thomas to its staff. Crosthwait was called as music associate/organist effective November 1991. A native of Olney, Texas, he received his education at Hardin-Simmons University and Southwestern Seminary. He previously served at Gambrell Street Church, Fort Worth, Texas; First Church, Greensboro, N.C.; and First Church, Odessa, Texas.

Rob Thomas was called as music/media associate effective August 1991. A native of Cullman, Ala., he received his education at Samford University and Southwestern Seminary. He has served at Travis Avenue Church, Fort Worth, Tex., and New Prospect Church, Jasper, Ala.



Crosthwait



Thomas

Harmony Church, Laurel, has called Michael Morgan of Laurel as minister of youth effective Feb. 12. His previous place of service was First Church, Shady Grove in Jasper County. He is receiving his education at Jones County Junior College and plans to attend William Carey in the fall of 1993.

Salem Church, Tylertown, has called Johnny Sykes as pastor effective March 1. A native of Brookhaven, he received his education at Clarke College, Mississippi College, and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was Carmel Church, Monticello.

## NORTH CAROLINA

From page 3

The recommendation would change the business and financial policy of the state convention and the general board by adding the following paragraph:

"No funds of any kind, designated or undesignated, shall be accepted by this convention, its programs, institutions, or agencies, from any church which knowingly takes, or has taken, any official action which manifests public approval, promotion or blessing of homosexuality. Any such church shall not therefore qualify as a 'cooperating church' as defined in Article IV, A, 3 of the Constitution of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina."

The recommendation was prompted by the decision of Pullen Memorial Church in Raleigh to approve the "union" of two homosexual males and the news Binkley Memorial Church in Chapel Hill is considering licensing a homosexual male to the ministry. The "union" of the two homosexual males took place March 15 at the Raleigh church.

"This in no way negates the importance of local church autonomy or the Biblical mandate for all Christians to minister to the needs of all people in keeping with the spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ," said a statement released to news media following the meeting of the leaders.

## Legislative bills still alive

Compiled by Paul Jones and Beth Holmes

The legislature continues to forge ahead as it pushes toward its adjournment deadline of May 10. Many bills have died on various calendar deadlines. The following are active (alive) bills, which may be of interest to the churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. The legislators can be called 359-3770 or written at Box 1018, Jackson, MS 39215.

The recommendations are the opinion of the staff of the Christian Action Commission and are based on the status of the bill at the time of the compilation of this report. Subsequent change or amendment of a bill is always possible.

**ADOPTION:** HB 460 will create the "Mississippi Adoption Confidentiality Law" which would place Mississippi in the forefront of states taking seriously adoption as a means of protecting and preserving children. Recommendation: support.

**ALCOHOL:** HB 1029 would legalize the sampling of alcoholic beverages for which there is no need in our society. Recommendation: oppose.  
HB 1342 would allow minors to serve or handle alcoholic beverages. Recommendation: oppose.

**GAMBLING:** SB 2585 would allow for a waiver of distance restrictions by churches and schools for the sale of alcoholic beverages. Recommendation: oppose.

HB 281 and SB 2316 would authorize ownership and possession of antique coin machines. This would allow for the public possession and operation of gambling devices more than 25 years old. Recommendation: oppose.

HB 1195 is the "Charitable Bingo Act" whose purpose is to make the enforcement of the bingo laws more possible. Recommendation: support.

SCR 512 would repeal the constitutional prohibition against a state-operated lottery. This has passed both chambers of the legislature and will be voted on at the Nov. 3 general election. Recommendation: Go to the polls and defeat it.

SB 2133 would tax bingo games. Our question is why not close them? If we are going to have them, then let's really tax them. Recommendation: support.

SB 2873 would impose a tax on slot machines. First dockside/riverboat was gambling legalized and now we make money from what used to be illegal machines.

**DRUGS:** SB 2052 would increase the penalties for sale of tobacco to minors. Recommendation: support.

## Melton's father dies

Charles H. Melton, 93, died March 23 at the Haws Nursing Home, Fulton, Ky. of heart failure.

Funeral services were held March 26 from the chapel of Wright and Ferguson Funeral Home, Jackson.

A native of Durant, Melton had lived 42 years in Jackson before moving to Fulton one month ago. He had lived in Memphis from 1941 until 1950. He was retired manager of Railway Express. He was a member of First Church, Jackson.

Survivors include a daughter, Martha Melton Putnam of South Fulton, Tenn.; a son, Charles H. Melton Jr., of Newton, former director of missions, Newton Association; 4 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren, one sister; and two brothers.

## YOUNG

From page 3

method whereby all Southern Baptists who believe in the truth of God's Word, regardless of for whom they voted for president since 1979, can be reconciled with their brethren in such a manner that doctrinal integrity is preserved and our worldwide missions effort is given renewed impetus," Young said. "We must get this dispute behind us so that God will pour out his revival on us as a body. It's time to put down the guns and go fishing."

As to his health, Young said the angioplasty procedure he underwent in 1988 was completely successful, there has been no recurrence of the blockage and doctors have given him a "clean bill of health. I have never felt better."

This story was compiled from an interview with Young written by J. Walter Carpenter, editor of the SOUTHERN BAPTIST WATCHMAN.

## PARKS

From page 3

he asked to remain until then, the Foreign Mission Board's 150th year, to lay the groundwork for his 10-point vision for global evangelization.

Retirement, he said, was the only way to resolve the confusion and uncertainty surrounding his tenure and his authority as president.

The question of 1995 was discussed at the retreat, he said, "but it became apparent to me that, although the majority (of the trustees) would have said, 'Yes, we want you stay,' there was no sense of an unreserved commitment to my leadership through 1995. I heard from some, as recently as last Saturday, stating in public meetings that I'd probably get affirmed in (the retreat) but I might be expected to retire in July or in June."

"So I had a strong conviction that it would just be a continuing saga of 'Does he retire this month or next

month or what about the first of the year?'"

Parks also said he told trustees his authority as president has been blurred by the tendency of many trustees to get involved in administrative matters with staff and missionaries, rather than sticking to the formation of policy. That prevents the board from operating properly and indicates a lack of confidence in his leadership, he said.

If a missionary doesn't like an administrative decision he can just go to trustees to get it reviewed, Parks said. That may let trustees feel they have more control and are not "rubber stamps" but what really happens is "nobody is in control," he said. Such confusion might end, he added, if the trustees "had somebody they trusted" in charge.

Parks added, however, that he feels many trustees heard concerns he expressed in the retreat and would try to improve relationships.

## Carey enrollment records continue

Spring 1992 enrollment records in Gulfport and New Orleans, and a 34% jump in the Hattiesburg campus undergraduate student body, continue the rapid growth experienced during the past two years at William Carey College. According to college officials, preliminary student headcount totals reached 1,692 for the 1992 spring trimester as compared to \$1,585 for spring 1991.

The Gulfport campus now has the college's second largest student body with spring enrollment totaling 419 at Carey on the Coast, an increase of 16% from 1991. The undergraduate enrollment of 320 is an all-time high for the spring trimester.

The Spring 1992 nursing and pre-nursing enrollment in New Orleans totals 393, up from 380 in the Spring of 1991, and is another all-time high. The nursing program will soon move into newly renovated facilities at Southern Baptist Hospital where the program was started over twenty years ago.

The Hattiesburg undergraduate 1992 spring headcount enrollment of 740, up from 550 in spring 1991, continued the sharp gains experienced in the 1991 fall and winter trimesters, and is the highest total since 1983. The spring headcount is up 65% over the Hattiesburg enrollment during the spring of 1989.

## Names in the news

Randle Poss, center, pastor of First Church, Maben, recently recognized two members. Nick Lewis, left, received a pin marking 29 years of perfect Sunday School attendance, and James Thompson, right, received a plaque upon his retirement following 30 years of service as Sunday School Director.

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# Just for the Record

Thursday, April 2, 1992

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

## BSSB lists First, Jackson, among top SBC churches

First Church, Jackson, Frank Pollard, pastor, received high marks in a list of churches published recently by Baptist Press.

Of the 36,000 churches in the SBC, First, Jackson ranked: 19th in Sunday School Attendance (2,613), 10th in ongoing music involvement (1,390), fourth in WMU enrollment (1,102), 15th in mission expenditures (\$935,615), and 12th in total receipts (\$7,007,915).

First, Brookhaven, Robert Self, pastor, was fourth in Brotherhood enrollment/participation.

(Compiled by the Research Department, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville)

According to the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce, their city has more churches per capita than any other in America.

A youth rally and concert will be held at Bluff Springs Church near Eupora on April 4 at 7 p.m. A group of Christian young people, "Heavenly Sonlight" will be sharing in song and testimony. Marion Tumberlinson is pastor.

Ackerman Church, Ackerman, had two All the Way in One Day promotions for Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong missions offerings. On Dec. 8, a goal of \$3,900 was set and over \$6,400 was given for Lottie Moon. On March 8, a goal of \$2,100 was set and over \$3,200 was received for Annie Armstrong. These offerings are in addition to the church's Cooperative Program giving of 15 1/2%.

Crosby Church will observe the 36th anniversary of the construction of its present building, and its 73rd year of organization, April 5, during the 10:45 a.m. worship. A homecoming and covered dish dinner will follow the service. Waylan Owens is pastor.

Thorn Hill Church, Pelahatchie, will start Sunday night services April 5. The services will be held at 6 p.m. Rudy James is pastor.

## Homecomings

Plainway Church, Laurel: April 5; services, 11 a.m., dinner on grounds, noon, and 7 p.m.; Maurice Flowers, Laurel, guest speaker; Terry Veazey, Laurel, music; Kent W. Megehee, pastor.



Valley Park Church, Valley Park, had a note burning celebration during its Day of Praise, March 1. Pictured, left to right, are C. B. "Buddie" Newman, Cecil Claypool, Rosa Braxton, Bobby Braxton, Billy Whitten, Jessie Lovorn, Ted Porter, Bob Mack, Addie Mae Holloway, Lynn Braxton, Louise Newman, Jeryl Johnson, Vivian Johnson, W. F. "Ding" Cooper, and Jimmy Newman. Bob Mack is pastor.



Mississippi Baptist Medical Center BSU students prepare for the upcoming Flea Market for Missions on April 6. Pictured making plans are, from left, Amanda Jones, Angela Morton, Tara Wyatt, and Stacy Pennock. Students from MBMC's schools of medical technology and radiography will hold the flea market from 11:30 until 1 p.m. to help raise money for student summer missions.

## Revival dates

Springdale, Ripley: April 5-8; 7 p.m.; Cornell Daughtry, evangelist; New Dimension Singers from Blue Mountain College, Shane and Tina Price, and McAlister Family, special music; Maurice Pinkston, pastor.

Pleasant Grove (Wayne): April 3-5; 7 p.m. nightly; Gordon Alford, First Church, Vancleave, preaching; Jimmy Byrd, NOBTS student, music; Randy Whitlock, pastor.

Harrisville (Simpson): April 5-8; Earl Suber, Goodwater Church, Magee, evangelist; Raymond Ball, Jackson, music; Sunday, 11 a.m.; 7:30 nightly; Dennis E. Allen, pastor.

New Sight, Brookhaven: April 5-9; Huey Moak, Foster Road Church, Baton Rouge, La., evangelist; Floyd Grice, Salem Heights Church, Laurel, music; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; weekdays, 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Edgar L. Wright, pastor.

Parkway, Kosciusko: April 5-8; Talmadge Smith, director of missions, Copiah and Lincoln, evangelist; Jewell Greer, Russell Church, Meridian, music; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Joseph B. Knight, pastor.

West End, West Point: April 5-10; 7 p.m.; Bobby Douglas, First

Church, Columbus, evangelist; Eric Kachur, West End Church, music; Children's Church for 3-year-olds through second grade every night except Tuesday, which is family night.

First, Poplarville: April 5-8; Chuck Pourciau, First Church, Louisville, evangelist; Kathryn Barfield, Yazoo City, music; Sunday, 11 a.m. (standard time) and 7 p.m. (daylight savings time); Mon.-Wed., 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Bob Rogers, pastor.

Plainway, Laurel: April 5-9; Maurice Flowers, Laurel, evangelist; Terry Veasey, Parkview Church, Laurel; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Kent W. Megehee, pastor.

First, Runnelstown, Petal: April 5-10; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., worship, 11 a.m., dinner in fellowship hall, noon, followed by afternoon service; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Steve Pouncey, evangelist; Lynn Holderfield, music; Henry Freeman, pastor.

Byram, Jackson: April 5-8; Jack Still, Elkton Road Church, Athens, Ala., evangelist; James Beasley, First Church, Crystal Springs, music; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:15 p.m.; James D.

Whittington, pastor.

Chunky, Newton: April 5-8; Danny Lanier, Meridian, evangelist; Bob Strebeck, Chunky, music; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Wayne Campbell, pastor.

North Carrollton (Carroll): April 5-8; Sunday, 11 a.m. and dinner on the grounds; 7 p.m. nightly; Guy Murphrey, Mt. Olivet Church, Stanley, La., evangelist; Barry Worl, Emmanuel Church, Grenada, music; Kevin Smith, pastor.

Bluff Springs (Choctaw): April 9-12; 7 p.m. nightly and 11 a.m. Sunday; Charles Gordon, director of missions, Choctaw and Webster, preaching; Marion Tumberlinson, pastor.

Rena Lara (North Delta): April 5-10; Sunday, 11 a.m.; noon meal, 1 p.m. singing; services 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Thomas Tutor, pastor, Oakhurst, Clarksdale, evangelist; John and Lisa McDaniel, Bellevue, Memphis, music; John Purvis, pastor.

Mt Zion (Leake): April 5-9; 7 p.m. nightly; Don Baggett, Belden, Tupelo, evangelist; Ron Harrison, pastor.

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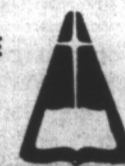
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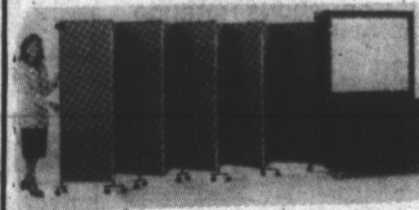
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## LIFE AND WORK

### Confident of triumph



By Lola M. Autry  
Matthew 26:1-56

Sara had died. Of five remaining brothers and sisters only one was able to attend her funeral service. The other four were in the hospital. That one cried in agony to friends, "Will this never end? Will life ever be better?" With our human voices we try to be reassuring, but God through his Son gives the ultimate answer.

**Jesus predicts his suffering and death (vv. 1-2).** Jesus, all along, knew of his fate as the Messiah-King, the God-man. He would be excruciatingly tortured — blood streaming from thorn-pierced brow and whip-lashed back. He would eventually die as a human on a cross placed on top of a hill called Golgotha, the place of the skull. He knew this, and he dreaded it. Three times he prayed, "Let this cup pass from me." Remember: he was God's son released from his place of glory with the Father to walk on earth as a man among men. As a man he dreaded this terrible fate. As divine he knew he must endure it. As people, we often must endure hardships, rejection, trials, illnesses, and death. So what is the answer?

**Jesus and his disciples prepare for the Passover meal (vv. 17-19).** Jesus began to make preparations. One of the answers to enduring the not-so-good things that come our way in this life is to have made preparations for the time when they will come — and they will — to everyone. Being able to touch base with the heavenly Father through ready prayer is one way of preparing.

There was a man whose only son had been in an accident. Just before being wheeled into the operating room the boy looked at his father and begged, "Pray for me, Daddy. Please, pray for me." They carried him away and he died on the operating table. His father, through violent sobs, cried, "He wanted me to pray, and I couldn't. I had never let God be a part of my life."

Another preparation is knowing in whom you believe and in being assured that he keeps his promises. A third readiness comes from a committed life to Christ even as he is committed to all who are his. The disciples were his and he was preparing for the Passover meal and the institution of the Lord's Supper with them (vv. 26-29). He spoke words that were understood by the disciples: "Take, eat; this is my body." And, having taken the cup, he gave thanks. He gave the cup to them and said, "Drink ye all of it; for this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."

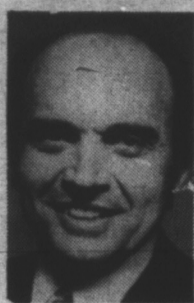
Many times we do not understand things we need to understand, and just as the disciples were not ready or willing to acknowledge the imminence of the death of Jesus we are not ready or willing to admit God might be glorified and honored by what befalls us.

**Jesus declared his confidence of ultimate triumph (vv. 30-32).** How wonderful, and yet how sad, it must have been to sing a song with the Messiah-King on this last earthly occasion. The disciples must have treasured this time. I would have. A song can be a declaration of confidence. I don't know about the one Jesus and the disciples sang, but the Scriptures say that as they were in the Mount of Olives Jesus spent additional time trying to prepare them for all that was before them. He called no punches. He calls none today. His children will have problems. They will have troubles. Many will be persecuted. But he did not leave the disciples without hope, nor does he leave us hopeless. He said, "But after I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee." He faced suffering and death with confidence. We, too, can face all things the same way. He overcame death. He is our Savior. The ultimate triumph of the kingdom of heaven is ours because he is triumphant in all things. He is the Answer.

Autry lives in Hickory Flat, and is a member of Pine Grove Church, Benton County.

## BIBLE BOOK

### Praise for God's comfort



By Charles Nestor  
II Corinthians 1:1-11

Paul writes this letter to the church he had founded years earlier in Corinth. The record of that relationship is recorded in Acts 18:1-18. This is one of Paul's earliest letters, probably written between 55 and 57 A.D. The church at Corinth was one that encountered many problems over the years. Paul attempted to minister through visits and written instructions. This letter is a follow-up to some good things reported to Paul by Titus. Paul was on his way to Corinth and wanted to make sure the problems were subsiding. He did not want another painful visit with them; one such visit had occurred in the past.

**I. Salutation (1:1-2).** Paul begins with the normal pattern for writing letters in the ancient world. In this statement we are introduced to Paul — an emotionally charged name in Corinth. He had won many of those people to Christ and brought them into the church. He emphasizes he is an apostle of Christ, not for personal gain, but for the sake of the message. Paul identifies Timothy as a young man that had worked with him in Corinth. He also mentions that Corinth was in the middle of the providence of Achaia, which included Athens and Sparta.

**2. The role of God's comfort in suffering (1:3-7).** These verses are a testimony to the power of God in suffering. Paul praises God for the power he gives through pain. Paul refers to God as Father, and acknowledges him as the source of all comfort. The word "comfort" relates to the word used by Jesus in his promise to send "another Comforter." That is the idea Paul presents here: a calling in alongside another to help. Paul could speak from experience about suffering. He had endured his share and would see more during his life.

The person who has not experienced some type of suffering is most unusual. Most will not leave this world without some degree of suffering. Therefore, Paul's words are relevant and timely to all generations. We learn how to deal with our suffering, as we trust in the God of all comfort. He is our source of comfort. The person who attempts to deal with suffering without God is in trouble. As God ministers to our suffering, we learn how to help others. William Barclay said, "The Christian comfort is the comfort which brings courage, the comfort which enables a man to cope with all that life can do to him."

One of Paul's goals was to plant new churches. This was another source of problems. He was personally confronted and chastised by the growth pains of these new congregations. Growth and change are never easy. It has not changed in our day, but that should not discourage our reaching out into new fields of service. Paul never allowed the problems to discourage him from fulfilling the purpose for which God chose him. He indicates that affliction and comfort are for the benefit of the believer, building endurance and patience.

Paul believed in the Corinthians. He also knew they would share sufferings and comfort. He believed they would demonstrate the truths he had taught them. Paul knew faith is lived out in community, not in isolation. Paul's suffering for them drew them closer to him. It also drew them closer to one another. The truth is, we need one another. Our Christian fellowship should be the strongest support group we know.

**3. Confidence in God's deliverance (1:8-11).** An unusual event took place in Paul's life. It occurred in the Roman province of Asia, today known as western Turkey. The major city of the area was Ephesus. He does not identify the problem. It was so severe that he feared for his life. His only hope was the mercy of God. God was faithful to his word; Paul was lifted up, comforted, and carried through. He relearned what true faith is all about. God had given him back his life. His faith assured him God would continue to deliver him. He also realized the value of intercessory prayer and thanked them for remembering him in prayer.

We are to reaffirm our faith in God and his power to deliver us from the trials and tribulations of the world. By faith, we are to lift each other up in prayer. "Greater is he that is in us than he that is in the world" (1 John 4:4).

Nestor is pastor, First Church, Bruce.

## UNIFORM

### Love says it all



By Bobby Williamson  
Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Mark 12:28-37

I have long heard that the things nearest to your heart are the things that you spend the most time thinking about and talking about. As I ponder that thought, I am made more keenly aware of how true this is in my own life, and I suspect in the lives of others. This leads me to an interesting question: About what or whom do you spend most of your time talking and thinking?

Our text today is not so much about the subject of conversation, as it is about that One that we are to love with all of our hearts, souls, and minds. Thus, if we truly love God in this manner, we will spend much of our time talking with him and about him.

**I. The supreme commandment (Deut. 6:4-9)**

In Mark 12:28 a scribe asked Jesus what was the most important commandment. Jesus gives the answer with which we are all familiar: "To love God with everything we have, and to love our neighbor as ourselves." Which comes first? Jesus responded that to love God with all of one's being is the first commandment, and the second is like the first: To love one's neighbor as oneself. To love one's neighbor in the way that we should is impossible if we do not love God in the way that we should.

Deuteronomy 6:7 is a key verse in our text. Here is some sound instruction on the teaching of the commandments in our homes. It says, "You shall talk of them when you sit in the house and when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up." That sounds fairly inclusive to me. When we sit, walk, lie down, and rise up, we are to talk about our precious Lord and Savior, and to teach our families his commandments.

**II. The scribe's affirmation of Jesus' answer (Mark 12:32-34)**

In verse 32 we find a scribe affirming Jesus' answer, and we find an interesting response from Jesus. Jesus said that the scribe was not far from the kingdom of God. What was Jesus saying here? In all probability he was saying that going to heaven is not a matter of knowing the commandments, but going to heaven is a matter of redemption through Christ Jesus. The scribe knew the commandments, but he apparently did not know Jesus. Knowing the commandments is certainly a good start, but only faith in Christ allows one to enter God's kingdom.

**III. The Messiah: Greater than the son of David (Mark 12:35-37)**

As Jesus taught in the temple, he asserted that the Messiah would be greater than the son of David. Who was this man Jesus? Jesus asked the question, "How is it that the scribes say that the Christ is the son of David?" And then in verse 37 he says, "David himself calls him Lord, and so in what sense is he a son?"

Who is Jesus? Jesus Christ himself is God, the sovereign Deity. I am convinced many times that we fail to remember just who Jesus is. He is not just relief in times of great need, he is to be Lord at all times. This is the gospel that we are to share with our neighbors. If we truly love God, we will love our neighbors, and we will share the love of Christ with them.

There are many significant lessons that we might learn this week. First of all, we should seek ways each and every day to express our love towards God. Secondly, with Jesus placing love for one's neighbor as the second commandment, we should be motivated to look for opportunities to express Christian love for those around us. Thirdly, knowing the commandments is not enough, we must know Jesus, and fourthly, we as Christians daily should affirm Christ's sovereignty and deity. Let us this week show our love for God and for other people, and let's decide to do at least one act of Christian love for another person.

Williamson is pastor, Park Place Church, Brandon.

# THE VILLAGE VIEW



## The Baptist Children's Village

Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

P. O. Box 27,  
Clinton, MS 39060-0027  
(601) 922-2242

ACCREDITED



## Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

Feb. 1, 1992 -  
Feb. 29, 1992

### MEMORIALS

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Mrs. Dollie Adair  
Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Sharp  
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Mrs. Margaret Aldridge  
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Mrs. Mary Annie Wright  
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Miss Ruth Singley  
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Family  
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New Hoppers  
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Mrs. Elsie McPhail  
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Mrs. Gwen Ferrell Allen  
Mr. Billy Frank Ferrell  
Mrs. Ruby A. Sherman  
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Randy Coleman  
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Ms. Gloria Cooper  
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Blackledge  
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Mr. & Mrs. B. J. Lawrence  
Gladys Moffett  
Miss India Ware  
Arnold Davis  
Mr. & Mrs. Otis P. Key  
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Mr. & Mrs. Willard K. Wilson  
Mr. Ray Davis  
Mrs. Elsie McPhail  
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Forest Baptist Church

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Charles Donald  
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Mr. Loyce Douglas  
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Mr. Ray Downey  
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Johnny, Beth, Jonathan  
Branscome  
Michelle Branscome  
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Garrison  
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Richardson  
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Letchworth  
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People  
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Mr. & Mrs. Monroe  
Barrentine  
Mr. & Mrs. W. G. Branscome  
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Claude Neil McNeill  
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(To be continued)

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Ms. Alice Kealhofer  
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Abraham  
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Marion "Clink" Spell  
Mr. & Mrs. James A.  
Maxwell



Spring  
1992  
has  
arrived

Recollections of both physical and spiritual new beginnings fill our minds.

Easter, the highlight of spring, is also a time of both spiritual and physical new beginnings for young people at The Baptist Children's Village. Several have begun a new life in Christ this year. All have grown in stature and all will receive a new outfit of dress clothes this Easter.

You can have a part in the lives of these children if you help us meet our 1992 Easter goal of \$85,000.



## Book reviews

**KIDS ON THE STREET**, by Carl R. Resener and Judy Hall (Broadman Press, 208 pages, \$9.95, paper, 1992).

Resener, executive director of Nashville's Union Rescue Mission, and Hall, a social worker, have written a thought-provoking book about the plight of homeless children and their families in our society.

In the book, Resener and Hall report that every day in the United States 3,288 children run away from home; 2,753 teenagers get pregnant; nine children die from gunshot wounds; five teenagers commit suicide; and 1,287 teenagers give birth.

The book, not "an easy read" presents a disturbing picture of the needs of homeless children and youth in America. Causes for this tragic dilemma are discussed, along with suggestions for ways to help and a message for religious bodies. — Reviewed by Betty Smith, Clinton.

**EERDMANS' HANDBOOK TO THE BIBLE**, edited by David and Pat Alexander (Eerdmans Publishing, 680 pp.; \$19.95, paper, 1992).

With over 1.75 million copies in print in a score of languages, Eerdmans' most popular reference is now available in paperback.

Regarded by many as "the best book to have next to the Bible," the handbook has been a best-seller for nearly 20 years. The new paperback edition retains the extensive revisions of the text, illustrations, maps, and charts of the revised edition of 1986.

It includes a section-by-section guide to the Bible, with notes on difficult areas; articles on the setting and use of the Bible; 437 pictures portraying the world of the Bible; and 68 maps.

Confidence is a feeling you sometimes have before you fully understand the situation.

# Jim Wood has children's camp dream come true in Tennessee

By Louis A. Moore

**GATLINBURG, Tenn. (BP)** — As a 15-year-old, James Paul Wood kept asking some tough questions that 22 years later have resulted in a new ministry to youths in the mountains of east Tennessee.

Wood was a volunteer at a juvenile detention center in North Carolina where he led weekly Bible studies for the younger residents.

In one situation, it struck him as odd that a teen with a truancy problem was housed in the same room with a murderer.

Why? he asked. The answer came back: Because there was no room in the nearby church-run children's home for the truant youth.

Wood was horrified at the answer. Afterward he prayed about what he had just learned and eventually determined that, someday, God wanted him to have a home for children.

Years later when he met his wife, Susan, she told him of a similar commitment to establish a home for young people. After they married, they worked for two years on the staff of French Camp in Mississippi where they were house parents to 14 boys, ages 10-14.

Today, their dreams are becoming a reality on a mountainside some 12 miles from Gatlinburg, Tenn. There, on 104 acres of land in an unspoiled, unincorporated area known as Wears Valley, the Woods are building Wears Valley Ranch. It is just over the ridge from the Smoky Mountains National Park.

Jim and Susan Wood envision Wears Valley Ranch as a home and school for 60 young people, first grade through high school, who have been impacted by the divorce and drug epidemics sweeping the country.

The school/home is scheduled to open in August 1992 with eight youths. The Woods plan to emphasize the home as something akin to a boarding school to make it easier for parents to send their children before they become wards of the state. "Human Services tends to get children after they've been through the mill," he said. "We'd like to get them before they have been in the system."

In order to build Wears Valley Ranch, Jim Wood resigned as pastor of Mount Vernon Baptist Church in Atlanta and moved his wife and three sons, ages 9 to 13, to a former inn on

a mountain near the ranch site.

His salary is underwritten by a small group of supporters.

Wood continues to serve on the board of trustees of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission as an at-large representative.

"My years in the pastorate were preparation for this," he said.

"The pastorate allowed me to grow and see needs of families. Our ultimate goal is for families to stay together but clearly there are cases where a time-out is needed, and we hope to be able to meet that need here."

The Woods see the hand of God at every turn in their decision to begin Wears Valley Ranch. They received the land after applying to a religious organization that owned it but was looking for someone to use it for ministry. The first house on the property is being constructed with a grant from a private foundation.

"We are absolutely persuaded that things have gone so well because there is a base of prayer support for this ministry," Susan said. "We are encouraged by the large number of people who have pledged to pray for us."

Moore writes for CLC.

## Volunteer nurses needed

This list of needs for nurses was provided by the Foreign Mission Board, SBC:

**GAZA** — This request is for a nurse with a BSN and either experience in teaching obstetrics or several years experience in working in obstetrics to serve for 10 weeks to 4 months beginning July 6, 1992. This nurse would teach obstetrics (in English) to 14 (7 male and 7 female) students who should graduate in the spring of 1993 in a three-year diploma program.

**GAZA** — A clinical instructor (RN) or nurse educator (BSN) to work with students in a variety of clinical settings is needed on a continuing basis through March 1993.

**INDIA** — This request is for a nurse with a BSN to participate in nursing care of patients and to provide teaching to nursing staff in a 140-bed general medical and surgical hospital in a city of 5 million people. The majority of the medical staff are Indians.

**NIGERIA, Eku** — A nursing tutor with a BSN is requested to teach (in English) a senior level nursing course on physical assessment and basic diagnosis, assist in clinical evaluation of students, help in teaching behavioral sciences or basic science courses for first-year students.

**PAKISTAN** — Two RNs and two nurses midwives are requested to serve for at least 1 month (continuous need) in the Afghan OB/Gyn Hospital in Peshawar, Pakistan. This hospital was founded in 1984 with the help of the International Rescue Committee to provide improved obstetric and gynecologic care to Afghan women. The air-conditioned 15-bed inpatient hospital has labor rooms, a surgical unit and facilities for pediatric care, particularly of pre-term infants. It also operates a mobile OB/Gyn clinic in some refugee camps. 60% of the Afghan refugee population consists of women and children, with an estimate of 40% of the women between 16 and 45 years of age being pregnant at any given time.

## Convention relations office offers videos, CP defense

**NASHVILLE (BP)** — The convention relations office of the Executive Committee is now offering churches three new denominational videos and a paper defending the Cooperative Program against alternative funding.

There has been a need for fresh denomination-wide videos, according to Mark Coppenger, vice president for convention relations (formerly public relations). Also, there have been calls from pastors and church members desiring to defend the Cooperative Program against the appeals of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Coppenger said.

Three video items are now available. A five-minute version of the "Meet Southern Baptists" brochure premiered at the recent session of the Executive Committee in Nashville.

"It's designed as an outreach tool, the sort of cassette church members could take on visitation. Since it comes in VHS format, it will play on a prospect's VCR. It includes a brief gospel presentation as a beginning

point for evangelism. And it should also serve well as an orientation piece for old and new members alike," Coppenger said. Copies are available for \$7.

The other two video pieces are designed for use on television. One is a public service announcement called "Treasures." It begins with scenes of the Statue of Liberty, the St. Louis Arch, Lincoln Memorial, and Mt. Rushmore but then shifts to a family walking together into church.

The second television spot, called "Safe Sex," presents a traditional wedding scene. As the camera shifts perspectives, the narrator says, "We've heard a lot about safe sex lately. God's had a plan all along."

Both carry a closing Southern Baptist identifier, are designed to give America a "wake-up call," according to Coppenger, come in one-inch commercial format, and are available for loan. "Treasures" runs 30 seconds, "Safe Sex" 15 seconds.

## Smith sermon renews rally plans

By Tammi Ledbetter

**INDIANAPOLIS (BP)** — As 81-year-old J. Harold Smith rose to speak, several hundred Southern Baptists at a Crossover Indianapolis rally waited with anticipation. Smith was introduced with a reference to "God's Three Deadlines" he was about to preach. The oft-delivered sermon was compared to R.G. Lee's "Payday Someday" and Jonathan Edwards' "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God."

But rally-goers did not anticipate the way the Holy Spirit would move through Smith's sermon.

The evangelist underscored the seriousness of lost people committing the unpardonable sin of blasphemy of the Holy Spirit in refusing conviction of sin and the need for salvation — and, he charged, Southern Baptists have lost the vision of reaching one lost soul, the value of that soul and the victory of winning that soul to Christ.

"It's time repentance and humbling of the heart started in the house of God," Smith said.

About half the crowd of 400 re-committed their lives to Christ. A dozen churchgoers acknowledged they themselves needed to be saved.

Pastors and lay people alike expressed regret for not bringing more

unsaved people to hear Smith preach. Alvin Reid, evangelism director for the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, stated, "We don't know what God can do. We don't have any vision." Individuals began pondering the seriousness of the June 6 Crossover Indianapolis evangelistic campaign before the June 9-11 meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in the city.

Pastor O.J. Peterson of Indianapolis rose to ask for a second chance at rounding up folks to hear Smith's sermon. "Why can't we have (Smith) back" in conjunction with the Crossover effort "now that we know what a great effect this can have?" Peterson asked.

Charles Sullivan, the Indiana Baptist convention's executive director, said his dream now is to have "a thousand lost people saved" at the rally where Smith will again preach his "God's Three Deadlines" sermon.

James Abernathy, interim director of the Indianapolis-area Baptist association, closed the rally with a prayerful appeal for God to protect against pride or selfish attitudes interfering with what God had called the rally-goers to undertake.

Though many pastors hesitate to

leave their Sunday pulpits for pre-SBC meetings, Morris Chapman, SBC president, stated, "I believe if the pastors of our Southern Baptist churches will give up their pulpit that Sunday so they may come to Indianapolis the Saturday before, their people will praise God the Sunday they return" over the impact of the Crossover campaign.

"We'll have a convention — but more desperately we need a revival," Chapman said.

Freddie Gage, Texas evangelist and Crossover co-chairman, acknowledged he was part of an April 1979 meeting to launch the conservative movement in the SBC in the office of W.A. Criswell, pastor of First Church in Dallas. He said he remains committed to the conservative effort. But Gage as a pastor of Southern Baptists "to stop all next 120 souls" w

Indiana Ledbetter

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## The lost stray

By Tom Walden

Not only did we learn to survive during a more primitive time in our lives. We were also close to nature itself when we were in rural farm life.

We watched our cows, our horses, and our pets protect their young. A mother hen would hover over her biddies when a storm came up or when a hawk flew over. We heard her warning squawks when we were not even aware that any danger was near. That was squawk talk.

If we were working in the field, or wherever we were, we would always watch the wild geese as they flew south in the winter and as they would go north letting us know that spring was near. They were always in a flying formation. Often they would change in their formation spelling the word, LOVE.

I remember seeing one stray out of formation that got lost. The others would not continue until they had found and honked it back into formation. We could hear them honking.

I often wonder why we do not have that kind of compassion that we see in the wild kingdom for our lost or strayed ones. We should not be contented until we have honked them back.

In Matthew 25:40, "Inasmuch as you have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto me." Again in Acts 1:8, "Ye shall be my witnesses."

Walden is a member of Van Winkle Church, Jackson.

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